



Gc
977.201
Adlb
pt.2
2106485

ROBERTSON HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01786 7554



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center



7-228 C

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL

RECORD

OF

Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana.

Vol.

CONTAINING PORTRAITS OF ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM WASHINGTON TO CLEVELAND, WITH ACCOMPANYING BIOGRAPHIES OF EACH; A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE STATE OF INDIANA; PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF SOME OF THE PROMINENT MEN OF THE STATE; ENGRAVINGS OF PROMINENT CITIZENS IN ADAMS AND WELLS COUNTIES, WITH PERSONAL HISTORIES OF MANY OF THE LEADING FAMILIES, AND A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE COUNTIES AND THEIR CITIES AND VILLAGES.

Pt. 2

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

113 ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO

1887.

80 2183 11

He was always a Methodist, and a good Christian man. Mr. Daugherty's grandfather, George Daugherty, was a native of Ireland. He and three brothers were kidnapped on the coast of Ireland, brought to America and sold to pay their fare. This was about 1738. George was sold on the sea coast, to a man who lived in Delaware. He died there. Nothing is known of the grandmother Daugherty. His grandfather, Caleb Furby, was an officer in the Revolutionary war, under Washington. He was born in Delaware, and died in Monongalia County, Virginia. His maternal grandmother, Sarah (Davis) Furby, was born in Delaware, and died in Franklin County, Ohio. The year 1843 was one of great scarcity. The season was a very wet one and very little was raised. Every family was engaged in burning and leeching ashes to make black salts to sell to the merchants in order to get their supplies. Indians were plenty, as well as game of many kinds. Mr. Daugherty was originally a Democrat. At the time of the Pierce campaign, in 1852, he voted for John P. Hale, the Free-soil candidate. After that he voted the Republican ticket until four years ago, when he became a Prohibitionist. He is a member of the Baptist church, and Mrs. Daugherty is a member of the Methodist church.

three years with Adolph Hart, of Decatur. In 1872 he went into business for himself, and in addition to manufacturing to order, keeps a full line of ready-made boots and shoes. From 1875 until 1881 he was in partnership with different parties under various firm names, but for the past six years has been alone. He is a good workman, and has a large custom trade. October 22, 1872, Mr. Voglewede was married in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Decatur, by Father Von Schwedler, to Miss Mary Meibers. They have six children—Charles, Clara, Clemens, Laurana and Bertha (twins), and Mamie.

DANIEL W. HOFFMAN was born in Preble Township, Adams County, this State, April 30, 1854. He was reared on his father's farm, and remained at home until he reached his majority. His father then purchased a farm for him, and he went to farming and threshing. He first went to Michigan, in 1879, with a steamer, and followed it until 1883. During that year his arm got caught in the cog-wheel of the engine, and it resulted in the amputation of the arm below the elbow joint. When eighteen years of age he had his arm broken by falling from a horse. Mr. Hoffman was a son of Jacob and Margaret (Bieberich) Hoffman. The father was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1828, and came to America with his parents when two years of age. The family settled in Wayne County, Ohio, where he was reared. He came to this county when a young man, where he was married, and lived until his death, which occurred in September, 1877. He is buried at the Lutheran church cemetery. The mother was born in this county in 1831, where she was reared and where she is still living, on the farm where

JOSEPH HENRY VOGLEWEDE, dealer in boots and shoes, Decatur, Indiana, is a native of Indiana, born in Washington Township, Adams County, August 19, 1847, a son of Gerhard H. and Mary (Holtzhouse) Voglewede, natives of Hanover, Germany. He was reared in his native township, remaining at home until twenty years of age, when in 1867 he began to learn the shoemaker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of

she commenced keeping house. In the father's family were seven children, five sons and two daughters. Mr. Hoffman was married October 1, 1874, to Maria Bley, who was born in Preble Township, May 25, 1857, daughter of Adam and Rosina (Seebert) Bley, who are natives of Saxony, Germany, and where all her brothers and sisters were born, she being the only child born in America. There were ten children in her father's family, five sons and five daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have four children—Rosina M., Otto A. J., Bertha A. and Emma Mary E. Mrs. Hoffman's parents came to America in 1853, and settled upon the farm where they now reside. They celebrated their golden wedding in the fall of 1884, and the children were all present. Three sons were in the late war—Charles, Louis and William. Charles and Louis served three years, and William served one year. Charles died of cancer in Preble Township, May 10, 1886, aged fifty-one years. Louis is living at West Point, Nebraska, where he keeps a furniture store. William is a farmer, living in Missouri.

in Rensselaerville, in that county, in August, 1868. Immediately after his death the mother returned with her children to Decatur, Adams County, where she has since made her home. She is a daughter of Chester and Lucinda (Vanderlip) Burt. She was brought up principally in Elmira, New York, and there received her education. Richard Townsend, the subject of this sketch, was but an infant when his parents removed to Rensselaerville, New York, but grew to manhood in Adams County, Indiana, returning to this county with his mother. He began working at an early age, being employed in various capacities in his grandfather's hotel, the Burt House, at Decatur, and has worked himself up from the humble position of bootblack to the proprietorship of the hotel. In January, 1860, his grandfather, Chester Burt, died, since which he has been proprietor, and owing to his skillful management, and genial and accommodating manners, it has become a favorite stopping place for the traveling public.

RICHARD TOWNSEND, proprietor of the Burt House at Decatur, is a native of Adams County, Indiana, born at Monmouth, November 6, 1850, a son of Eli and Leocadie (Burt) Townsend. The father was born in Albany County, New York, and was of English and Scotch parentage, and the mother of our subject was a native of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, and of English and German ancestry. They were married in January, 1858, and to them were born two children, named Richard and Maggie. The father came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1857, remaining but a short time, when he returned to his native county, his father dying

JOHAN WAGONER, an enterprising farmer of Monroe Township, residing on section 4, was born in Monroe Township, Adams County, Indiana, March 15, 1850, a son of Nicholas Wagoner. He grew to manhood on the home farm, receiving his education in the common schools of his neighborhood. He remained at home until his marriage, August 20, 1870, to Miss Sarah J. Hughes. She was born in Darke County, Ohio, June 26, 1849, a daughter of Lorenzo and Selecta (Wentworth) Hughes, who were also natives of Ohio. They came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1863, and settled in Monroe Township, where they lived till their death. They had a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters. The father was

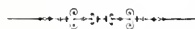
formerly a Methodist in his religious views, but afterward joined the United Brethren church. The mother was also a member of the United Brethren church. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wagoner, whose names are as follows—William W., Albert C., Lewis Edward, Benjamin F., David W. and Hosea C. After his marriage Mr. Wagoner settled on the farm where he now resides—a tract of forty acres given him by his father. His land when he first settled on it was heavily covered with timber. He has steadily improved his land and added to it until he now owns a fine farm of 120 acres, sixty-five acres being under good cultivation. In connection with his general farming Mr. Wagoner is extensively engaged in stock-raising. He has served his township as supervisor for eight years, with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. Mrs. Wagoner is a member of the United Brethren church.

GERHARD H. VOGELWEDE, an early settler of Washington Township, was born in Hanover, Europe, December 6, 1818, son of Herman and Mary E. Vogelwede. He was reared in his native country, and married therein September, 1845, to Mary C. Holtzhause, born September 8, 1826, in Hanover, and daughter of Barney and Mary C. Holtzhause. To them have been born ten children, nine of whom are living—Henry, Mary, Gerhard, John, Anthony, Catherine, Elizabeth, Louisa and Lucy. In 1845 he immigrated to America, and came to Adams County by way of Baltimore, settling on his present farm on section 8, Washington Township. He has always been a very hard-working man, and experienced all the vicissitudes of pioneer life. He owns 195

acres of good land, and as a farmer has been successful. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church, and is universally respected.

WILL H. FOUGHT, dealer in hardware, cabinet-ware and tin-ware, Geneva, was born in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio, December 31, 1842. His father, Caspar Fought, was a shoemaker by trade, at which he worked, being in limited circumstances. His mother, Susanna (Shull) Fought, died when he was six years old. His father then broke up housekeeping, and he and a younger sister lived around among the neighbors. His father married again and lived but a short time afterward. Our subject worked at whatever he could find to do, and wherever he could find an opportunity to work and attend school. He came to Fort Recovery, Ohio, in the fall of 1860, and served an apprenticeship at the tinner's trade. When the war broke out he enlisted October 28, 1861, and went into rendezvous at Camp Chase, where his company was assigned to the Fortieth Regiment, Ohio Infantry. Upon the organization of his company he was made Corporal. He participated in many of the important battles of the war, serving in Eastern Kentucky until the spring of 1863, when they were transferred to the Army of the Cumberland. He was with Sherman in his march to the sea, was in the battles of Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain. He was discharged at Pulaski, Tennessee, November 18, 1864. He then returned to Ohio and finished his trade, then went to work at Fort Recovery. While in that place he was married to Fannie Wellingsford, December 31, 1867, who died July 14, 1879. He was again married in February, 1882, to Miss Belle Flickinger, of Decatur, Indiana. They

have one child—Kittie Marie, born at Geneva November 18, 1884. Mr. Fought held the office of postmaster at Geneva, being appointed under President Arthur's administration. His commission was dated July 25, 1883, and he held the position until removed for offensive partisanship by President Cleveland, October 1, 1885. He is a member of John P. Porter Post, No. 83, G. A. R., being a charter member, and taking an active part in its organization. He has held the office of senior vice-commander and commander. At present he is on the department staff, holding the position of assistant department inspector, and as adjutant of his post. He has been a member of the township board.



JESSE NIBLICK, senior member of the firm of Niblick, Crawford & Sons, of Decatur, is a native of Ohio, born in what is now Carroll County, August 12, 1826, a son of James and Anna (Carter) Niblick. His father was a native of Ireland, born January 19, 1803, and brought to America by his parents, and was reared in New York City and Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He was a cooper by trade, which he followed until coming to Adams County, Indiana, in November, 1836, when he engaged in farming in Washington Township, near Decatur. In 1869 he removed to Warrensburg, Missouri, where he died a few weeks afterward at the age of sixty-nine years. He was a consistent Christian and at his death a member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he affiliated with the Democratic party, and at different times filled minor offices. The mother of our subject was of English ancestry, born in the State of Maryland, and reared in Carroll County, Ohio, where she

was married to Mr. Niblick. She died near Decatur, August 12, 1838. She was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of the eight children born to the parents four still survive—Robert, a farmer of Kirkland Township; Jesse, our subject; Adaline, wife of James Daily, of Wells County, Indiana; Mary Jane, wife of Sigmund Openheim, of Bluffton. Jesse Niblick was but ten years of age when brought by his parents to Adams County, and here he has since lived with the exception of one year which he spent in Fremont, Ohio, attending school, and here he received the rudiments of his education. In his youth he learned the shoemaker's trade, and in 1846 engaged in the boot and shoe business for himself. October 16, 1851, he was married at Decatur, to Miss Catherine Closs, who was brought from her native country (Germany) by her parents, John and Catherine (Songadiffer) Closs, in her girlhood. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Niblick, seven of whom are yet living—William, cashier of the Adams County Bank; John, a member of the firm of Niblick, Crawford & Sons; James K., clerking in a mercantile establishment; Mary; Amelia; Charles, a bookkeeper in the Adams County Bank, and Daniel, attending school at Decatur. Mr. Niblick dealt in boots and shoes until 1866, when he engaged in general merchandising with John Crawford, under the firm name of Niblick & Crawford, which business they have since continued, the firm name being changed to Niblick, Crawford & Sons, a son of each having been admitted as partners. In 1871 Mr. Niblick, in company with J. D. Nutman, engaged in a private banking business in the name of the Adams County Bank, Niblick & Nutman, bankers. David Studabaker and R. B. Allison afterward became associated with them, when the bank was duly organ-

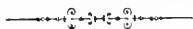
ized under the State laws, and Mr. Niblick was elected a director and its first president. He was succeeded by R. B. Allison as president, Mr. Niblick being elected vice-president. Being one of the organizers and a stockholder in the Eagle Manufacturing Company of Decatur, Mr. Niblick was elected one of its directors. Politically Mr. Niblick casts his suffrage with the Democratic party. In 1848 he was elected clerk of Washington Township, and from that year until 1865 he was either clerk or trustee of that township, and sometimes held both offices at the same time. In the fall of 1865 he was elected treasurer of Adams County, and re-elected in 1867, serving in that office four years to the entire satisfaction of his constituents, and since 1870 has held the office of village trustee or councilman. He is one of the prominent and public-spirited citizens of Decatur, and is always ready to aid in any enterprise which he deems of benefit to his town or county. Mrs. Niblick and her children, with the exception of William, are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur.

 DAM SYPHERS, retired farmer, residing on section 17 of Blue Creek Township, is a native of West Virginia, the date of his birth being January 15, 1822, a son of William and Mary E. (Kibler) Syphers, natives of Maryland, and of German descent. They reared a family of six children, of whom only three are now living—Jacob, a resident of Iowa; George W., living in Delaware County, Indiana, and Adam, whose name heads this sketch. He was reared on the home farm until reaching the age of sixteen years, when he came to Ceylon, Adams County, Indiana, and engaged in mercantile pursuits for a time. He was

married in Adams County in 1847 to Millie Moore, who was born in Carroll County, Ohio, November 4, 1817, a daughter of Jacob and Abigail Moore. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Syphers three are living—Lorinda, Joseph and Mattie. A son named Ephraim is deceased. Lorinda married Bernard Harris, of Michigan, and they are the parents of four children—Zula, Nero, Gertie and Edward. Joseph is a resident of Hartsburgh, in Putnam County, Ohio. Mattie married Samuel Whitman, of Decatur, Indiana, and has two children named Tracy and Franklin A. Mr. Syphers had but limited educational advantages in his youth, attending the subscription schools of that early day when his services were not required on the farm. He began life for himself a poor boy, but by persevering industry and economy he has succeeded in life. He is now the owner of 128 acres of choice land, located in Blue Creek Township, thirty-two acres being on section 17, and ninety-six acres on section 18. In politics Mr. Syphers casts his suffrage with the Democratic party. He has held township offices, serving as supervisor and constable. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his wife, in her religious faith, is a Presbyterian. Their postoffice is Willshire, Ohio.

 ILLIAM HARPER, JR., proprietor of the Geneva House, Geneva, Indiana, was born in Warren County, Ohio, March 15, 1834, a son of William Harper, a pioneer of Wells County, Indiana. He was twelve years old when he accompanied his parents to Wells County, and there grew to manhood, receiving but a limited education. He married Lydia C. Watts, who was born September 11, 1833, a daughter of

Samuel Watts. After his marriage Mr. Harper engaged in farming until September 16, 1861, when he enlisted in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and in January re-enlisted as a veteran and served until October, 1865. He participated in the battles of Champion Hill, Vicksburg and Jackson, besides many severe skirmishes. After the war he returned to Wells County and resumed farming in Nottingham Township, which he continued three years. He then went to Camden, Jay County, where he ran a hotel six years, and from there moved to Geneva and engaged in the dry goods business two years. He then engaged in farming in Randolph County until January, 1886, when he again located in Geneva and took charge of the Geneva House. Mr. Harper is a member of Nelson Trusler Post, No. 60, G. A. R., at Winchester, Randolph County. He is a Republican in politics, casting his first vote for John C. Fremont. He is at present marshal of the village of Geneva. He and his wife are members of the Christian church. They have had ten children—Palmer W., Ida V. (deceased), Walter F., Warren L., William M., Mary J., Cora A., Amanda, Grace W. and Arthur (twins, the latter deceased).



JOHIN P. SCHEER, proprietor of the Geneva saw and planing-mills, was born in Lowden, Seneca County, Ohio, July 7, 1845. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Sellers) Scheer, were natives of Baden Baden, Germany, born on the Rhine. They immigrated to America, with their parents, the mother being an infant and coming in 1809. The father came in 1832. The families settled in Seneca County, where his parents were married in 1837, and afterward removed

to Williams County, where they followed farming. The mother died in 1856, aged about forty-seven years. The father died about 1877. They were members of the German Reformed church, and reared a family of five sons and three daughters. When thirteen years of age John P. went to learn the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked until June 15, 1862, when he enlisted in the Eighth Ohio, an independent company of Sharpshooters; re-enlisted January 18, 1863, and was afterward merged into Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Ohio Infantry, serving until May 3, 1865, and was discharged, the war being closed. He was at Mission Ridge, Chickamunga, and in the Atlanta campaign against Hood. Upon receiving his discharge, he returned to his home in Ohio, remaining two years. He then went to Boise City, Idaho, for his health, remaining one year, then returned and hired out as an engineer in a saw-mill at Fish Lake, Elkhart County, this State. Later he went to the Michigan pineries, and worked at his trade in summer, and in the saw-mill during the winter. In 1873 he came to Bluffton, Wells County, this State, and worked for Jay North & Brother in their lumber yard, and in 1878 removed to Geneva, having full charge of their saw and planing-mill and lumber yard for six years. He worked for John North one year, and December 1, 1885, he bought the mill, and has since conducted the business himself. Mr. Scheer is a member of John P. Porter Post, No. 83, G. A. R., and is also a member of the Masonic order, having become a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, A. F. & A. M., in 1876; is now a member of Decatur Lodge, No. 571; also took the Scottish rites, Valley of Fort Wayne. He was married April 10, 1873, to Catherine Myers, born in Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana, October 26, 1838. Her father, John



J. P. Scher

Myers, deceased, was an early settler of that county, having located there in 1875, where the mother still resides. The father died there in 1848. To this union have been born three children—Mary E., born January 10, 1875; Nancy B., born November 6, 1876, and Georgia, born January 24, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Scheer are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Geneva. Politically, Mr. Scheer affiliates with the Republican party, and has held several local offices. He is also a strong believer in prohibition.

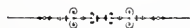
ISAAC NELSON, dealer in poultry, is a native of Wabash Township, born April 20, 1845, and is a son of Elias Nelson, deceased, formerly of this county. He was reared in his native township and received a limited education. His mother died when he was eight years of age, and he went to live with a cousin, with whom he remained four years, then went to live with his brother Edward. He worked for neighboring farmers in the township, and at Celina, just over the line in Ohio. He was a soldier in the late war, being a member of Company H, Seventy-first Ohio Infantry. He enlisted November 10, 1861; then veteranized and served until January 6, 1866. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Fort Donelson, the Atlanta campaign under Sherman, Nashville under Thomas, besides several other battles and skirmishes. He draws a pension for disease contracted in the army. He is a member of John P. Porter Post, G. A. R. After receiving his discharge he returned home to Indiana, and after working at the carpenter's trade one year engaged in farming until the spring of 1872, when he embarked in the grocery trade, and followed that in connection with his farming. In 1886 he erected a

building for a pack-room, to pack butter, eggs and poultry. He still owns a farm in the township. Mr. Nelson was married March 30, 1867, to Ellen Gilbert, born April 8, 1847. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the United Brethren church.

GERHARD HESSLER, farmer, Washington Township, was born in Hanover, Germany, November 1, 1816, son of Gerhard and Catherine Hessler. He was reared to manhood in his native country, and in 1841 immigrated to America, landing in New York City. He worked two years on the Ohio Canal. In March, 1852, he came to this county and settled on a farm in Washington Township, where he went to work amid the scenes of pioneer life. He was married in April, 1851, to Elizabeth Smith, and to this union were born six children, five of whom are living—John, Gerhard, Elizabeth, August and Annie. Mr. Hessler owns 186 acres of well-cultivated land. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party, and religiously is a member of the Roman Catholic church.

ELIAS NELSON, deceased, was an early settler of Wabash Township, having located there in 1842 and engaged in farming. He came to the county in limited circumstances. He was a native of Kentucky, born in 1795. His father, Charles Nelson, was also a native of Kentucky, and lived there during his life. His wife, formerly Nelly Crouch, was born in the same State. They had a family of nine children, three daughters and six sons. After the father's death Mrs. Nelson emigrated to Fairfield

County, Ohio, where she married Edward McCanley, by whom she had two children, one son and a daughter. She died in Fairfield County about 1826. Elias was reared on a farm, and was married in 1820 to Elizabeth Coffman, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1802. They had a family of seven children. The mother died in Licking County in 1830. Mr. Nelson was married again, his second wife being Sarah Coffman, a sister of his former wife. He came to Adams County in 1842, as before stated, when the country was entirely new. Deer and wild turkeys were plenty, and their nearest markets were St. Mary's, Celina and Bluffton. By his second marriage Mr. Nelson had ten children. This wife dying, he married Jane Taylor, and they had one child. The father died in 1859, honored and esteemed by all. He was a member of the United Brethren church.



ANDREW B. DAUGHERTY, engaged in general farming on section 14, Monroe Township, is a native of Adams County, Indiana, born in Root Township, June 28, 1847, a son of Andrew and Jane (Montgomery) Daugherty, the father born in Wheeling, West Virginia, July 29, 1805, and the mother a native of Franklin County, Ohio, born June 25, 1810. They were the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters. They came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1836, and entered eighty acres of land in Root Township, on which the father still resides and where the mother died March 18, 1882. In politics the father was formerly a Democrat until 1856, when he cast his vote for John C. Fremont for President, working with the Republican party until 1876. He then affiliated with the Greenback party un-

til 1884, when he cast his vote for prohibition. He has held the office of county commissioner, township trustee and justice of the peace, besides filling other local offices. In his religious faith he is a Baptist, his wife having been a member of the same denomination. Andrew B., the subject of this sketch, was reared to the avocation of a farmer on his father's homestead, and received his education in the common schools of his neighborhood. He was married January 26, 1870, to Jemima E. Evans, who was born in Root Township, Adams County, August 7, 1851, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Sparks) Evans, natives of Ohio and Indiana respectively. John K. Evans, the grandfather of Mrs. Daugherty, was born in Montgomery County, New York, and lived there from his birth, November 16, 1795, until 1816. He then removed to Columbus, Ohio, and after remaining there about one year went to Dayton, Ohio. In 1820 he settled in Mercer County, living there until 1833, when he settled in Adams County, Indiana. He was the first and last associate judge of Adams County. In 1850 he removed to Fort Wayne, where he died in the spring of 1875. He was an active and enterprising citizen, and a man of good business ability, and succeeded in accumulating a good competence. Mr. Daugherty has always followed farming. He removed to his present farm April 1, 1879, which contains eighty acres of fine land, fifty acres of which are now under a high state of cultivation. He has one of the finest residences in his neighborhood, which was erected in the summer of 1885, at a cost of \$600. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty—Blanche E., born February 11, 1872; Robert G., born July 4, 1874, died November 2, 1874; Lizzie I., born February 5, 1876; Claude D., born December 13, 1878, and an infant yet un-

named, born January 24, 1887. Politically Mr. Daugherty is a Republican. Mrs. Daugherty is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

HENRY LUTTMAN, farmer, resides on section 2, Root Township, where he owns eighty acres of land. He was born in Hanover, Germany, March 11, 1836. When he was fifteen years of age he came to America in company with some acquaintances, landing in New York. They went to Henry County, Ohio, living there about six months, then came to Root Township, this county, where Mr. Luttman has since resided. He worked among the farmers for about five years, then married Engel Koester, January 26, 1858, who was born in Prussia, February 13, 1837, and when she was eighteen years old came to America with her parents, who settled in Root Township. They first stopped with Mrs. Luttman's uncle, on the farm now owned by Mr. Luttman, and the father rented a farm for a few years. There were only two children in her father's family, she being the oldest. William, her brother, died in 1856. He was struck by the limb of a tree and died in three days. He was nearly seventeen years old. Mrs. Luttman's parents were Charles F. and Margaret Mary L. (Shaphorster) Koester, both of whom were born in Prussia, the father, September 14, 1807. The father died December 25, 1864, and is buried in Church cemetery. The mother was born February 12, 1810, where she was reared and married. She is now living with Mr. and Mrs. Luttman. Mr. Luttman's parents were John C. and Elizabeth Luttman. The mother died in Germany when Henry was about two years of age. She was twenty-three years old, and Henry was the oldest child. The father

again married, and died in Germany in 1861. He was born in 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Luttman have had ten children, seven of whom are living—Harmon H., born May 11, 1859; Christian H., born October 8, 1860; Engel M., born December 27, 1861; Engel H. E., born October 3, 1863, died October 1, 1864; Charles F., born April 11, 1865; William H. A., born December 7, 1866, died November 26, 1884; Frederick W. M., born September 28, 1868; F. W. Edwards, born March 11, 1870; H. F. Andrew, born December 1, 1875. Mr. Luttman was elected township trustee in 1880, serving four years; was elected justice of the peace, serving three years, and also served as constable one year. Mr. Luttman's grandfather Luttman, John H., was born in Hanover, Germany, where he spent his whole life. His grandmother Luttman died in Germany when Henry was two years old, just four weeks after his mother's death. Mrs. Luttman's grandparents were all born in Germany, and all died there.

DATHANIEL BAILEY was born in Richland County, Ohio, August 8, 1818, a son of Elias and Mary (Polk) Bailey. He came to Indiana in the fall of 1844, and bought a tract of wild land in Union Township, Adams County, which he improved and made his home until his death, November 12, 1883. He was married November 28, 1839, to Catherine Harvnot, daughter of Isaac and Jane (Greer) Harvnot. To them were born eleven children—Jane, wife of N. Tilbury; Mary, wife of William Swartz; George W., who was a member of Company I, Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry, and died at Memphis, Tennessee, during the war; Maria E., wife of John Barkley, died in 1873; Huldah A., wife of Simon Barkley,

died June 30, 1871; Isaac M., of Allen County, Indiana; Albert J., of Union Township; Philip S., died September 26, 1860; Lewis H., of Union Township; Elizabeth, died in infancy, and Catherine E., wife of John Shultz. Mr. Bailey is a member of the Christian church. Mrs. Bailey still lives on the old homestead in Union Township.

JOHN GODFREY WAGNER, deceased, was born in Butler County, Ohio, and of German descent. His father was a shoemaker, of whom he learned the trade, which he followed several years. He then engaged in mill-wrighting and followed that business until 1861, when he enlisted in the United States service as a soldier. He enlisted as a private, but was appointed First Sergeant on the organization of his company, which was Company C, First Indiana Infantry. He participated in the skirmish at Woodsonville, Kentucky, besides some other skirmishes. He was taken sick and sent to the field hospital, thence to Evansville, Indiana, and was then brought home by his brother Masons, living only a week and three days after arriving home. He was buried under Masonic rites June 10, 1862. Mr. Wagner was a well-educated man, and followed teaching when a young man, until about 1856. He was an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and had charge of Newport circuit, Wayne County, this State, also the Cameron circuit, in Jay County. He traveled this circuit until about 1860, when, owing to poor health, he was obliged to give up the charge. He then engaged in operating a saw-mill, removing to West Liberty, Jay County. After that he followed shoemaking until called away as a soldier in defense of his country. Mr. Wagner was married to Ann F. Powell, who

was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Michael Powell. To this union ten children were born.

ELISHA V. ELZEY, retired farmer, came to this county October 7, 1836, with his parents, three sisters and three brothers. One sister was married and came with her husband and two children. The family settled on section 31, Root Township, upon the farm now owned by Scott Hughes. The father entered the entire section from the Government, and divided it among his children, keeping 280 acres for himself. He entered the land in May, 1836, then returned and brought his family. They moved with four wagons and nine horses. They also brought several cows with them. The family came from Clinton County, Ohio, where Elisha was born July 26, 1815, and where he was reared. The parents were William and Elizabeth (Nichols) Elzey. The father was born in Delaware in 1783, and was reared in the State of Maryland. He was married in that State, and removed to Cincinnati with wife and one child. They afterward removed to Clinton County, when the country was new. He went to Ohio previous to the war of 1812, but being disabled for military duty on account of a broken collar bone, he was exempt. The mother was born in Maryland, and was some younger than the father. She died in December, 1834, in Clinton County. Elisha was married February 28, 1837, to Miss Elvira Johns, who was born in Clinton County, Ohio, one mile from Cuba, in 1818, where she was reared and educated. Mr. Elzey returned to this county immediately after marriage. Before leaving he had built a log cabin on an eighty-acre lot given him by his father. He lived on this farm with

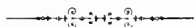
his family until he moved to the city of Decatur in 1880. All his children were reared and married on this farm. Mrs. Elzey died December 28, 1839, leaving one child seven months old—Hiram, now living in Muscatine County, Iowa. April 26, 1840, Mr. Elzey was married to Miss Mary Row, who was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, and came to this county with her mother and brother in 1839, settling on the Reynolds farm. The second wife died the following May, within six weeks of her marriage. He was married the third time March 26, 1842, to Comfort Ann Whitelrnt, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1820, and came to this county with her mother and two brothers in 1841. She died in February, 1879, leaving six children—Richard S., Jane Rachel, Alfred, Mary, William and Caroline. In October, 1882, Mr. Elzey married Mrs. Rachel Fisher, who was born in Frederiek County, Virginia, March 18, 1816, was reared and married in that State to Lewis Fisher, and removed to Clinton County, Ohio, in 1834, and lived there until her family came to this county in 1840, settling on a farm adjoining Mr. Elzey's. They then sold and removed to French Township, where Mr. Fisher died April 18, 1854. He was born October 26, 1810, in Virginia, where he was reared and married. He died leaving nine children—Elizabeth, William, Thomas, Mary, Clinton, Catherine, Delphay, Ann and Melissa. One child, Samantha, died at the age of thirteen months, previous to the father's death. Of these eight children, four are living, two sons and two daughters. When Mr. Elzey came to this county with his father to enter the land, there was no house in Decatur. One house was built the following October, and a surveyor by the name of Jacob Hoffer lived in it. The first election held in the county was at the house of John Reynolds when

Samuel L. Rugg was clerk. The first letter that he and his wife received through the Decatur postoffice Mr. Rugg brought to them two and a half miles. They used to fan their buckwheat, and sometimes their wheat, with quilts. Mr. Elzey's grandfather, John Elzey, died in Maryland, and his grandmother, Mary Elzey, died in Clinton County, Ohio, at a hale old age. His maternal grandparents died in Maryland. Mrs. Elzey's parents were William and Elizabeth (Braning) Williams, who were born and died in Virginia. Her grandfather, Hugh Williams, was born in Wales, and settled in Virginia when a young man, where he died. Her grandmother, Nancy (Keatch) Williams, was born in England. Her maternal grandfather, John Braning, was born in Ireland, and when eleven years of age ran away from home and came to America, settling in Frederiek County, Virginia, where he passed the remainder of his days. His parents found where he was and sent for him to come home, but he was afraid to go, although his father was old and there was a million dollars for him. He married Rebecca Keatch, and their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married William Williams. The grandmother, Rebecca (Keatch) Braning, was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and died in Berkeley County, aged ninety-one years.

—•••••—

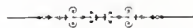
DANIEL RAILING, liveryman, and dealer in and shipper of horses, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Cumberland County, October 16, 1830. His parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Miller) Railing, were natives of Pennsylvania, the father of Scotch and the mother of German parentage. His father died in 1840. When he was ten years of age he was obliged to work

for his own maintenance, and found employment with farmers, working for wages until nineteen years old, when with his mother he came West as far as Ohio, and lived in that State until 1855. They then came to Adams County, Indiana, where with his brother David he purchased eighty acres of land near Decatur. In connection with farming they for fourteen years ran a threshing-machine, and in that time threshed grain in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. In 1864 Mr. Railing began to buy and ship live-stock, and in 1874, with others, embarked in the livery business. He was married at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1853, to Miss Elamina Kern, formerly of Ohio. They have two children—Salmona, wife of John B. Rice, and Christina, wife of John Vail. Mr. Railing is a member of Decatur Lodge, No. 571, A. F. & A. M.



WILLIAM KLINE, farmer, section 7, Union Township, owns 120 acres of land. He was born March 25, 1840, in Root Township, this county, where he was reared, and educated in the common schools of his father's district. His parents were Jacob and Barbara Kline. He was married August 5, 1860, to Miss Nancy E. Mumma, who was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, June 23, 1840. When she was thirteen years of age she came with her parents and three other children to Adams County, the family settling in Root Township, where the father died October 16, 1878, and is buried at Pleasant Valley cemetery. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, February 7, 1810, and when a boy removed with his parents to Tuscarawas County, Ohio. The mother was born in Maryland March 25, 1810, and when a girl removed with her

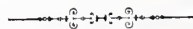
parents to Tuscarawas County. She is still living. Both parents were members of the United Brethren church. Mr. and Mrs. Kline have five children—Louisa J., born May 23, 1861, now the wife of John Nideling; Emma F., born September 6, 1863; Franklin E., born September 4, 1866; Elmer A., born April 13, 1872; Bertha A., born September 22, 1881. Mrs. Kline's grandfather, John Mumma, died in Union Township, this county; her grandmother, Magdalena Mumma, also died in Union Township, and both are buried at Pleasant Valley cemetery. Her parents were John and Catherine (Snyder) Mumma. Her grandmother, Catherine Snyder, died in Root Township, and is buried in Pleasant Valley cemetery. Mr. Kline joined the army September 22, 1864, rendezvoused at Wabash, then went to Indianapolis, where he and his comrades were distributed among different regiments. Mr. Kline was assigned to Company I, Fifty-first Indiana Infantry, and joined his company at Bridgeport, Alabama. His first skirmish was at Columbia, Tennessee; then followed the battles of Franklin, Duck River, and two days' fight at Nashville, where the regiment suffered great loss. He was under fire thirty-three days. He was discharged June 17, 1865, and returned home and engaged in farming.



JA. BUNNER was born in the town of Clinton, Monongalia County, West Virginia, and is the fourth son of Randolph and Sarah Ann (Sapp) Bunner, who were also natives of Virginia. His paternal grandparents were John and Sarah (Carl) Bunner, and his maternal grandparents were Benjamin and Sarah (Guthrie) Sapp, and were natives of Virginia. The nationality of his ancestors is Irish, and they are also

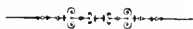
Protestants, many of them being members of the Disciple church. One of Mr. Banner's brothers is a minister in that denomination. His great-grandfather, Joseph Sapp, fought seven years under General Washington. The brothers and sisters of our subject are—Alvinza Alexander, Benjamin Franklin, John Randolph, Jefferson Jackson, Sylvia E. Lee, Joseph Edwin, George Washington, Sanford Pickenfall, Albert G. Davis, Sarah Jane and Margaret Ellen. His mother had nine brothers—Selva, Joseph, Samuel, William, Edmund, John, Henry, Jasper and James; the sisters were—Rebecca, Charlotta and Phebe. The father's brothers and sisters were—James, John, Joseph, Enoch, Washington, Sarah Jane, Mary and Betsey. His ancestors were generally farmers. His father possessed unusual oratorical powers and had a good knowledge of law. Franklin Sapp was a soldier in the Union army during the late civil war, holding the rank of Lieutenant and receiving an honorable discharge for faithful and patriotic service. His parents began domestic life in West Virginia, upon a tract of land consisting of 145 acres, which was totally unimproved, but by patient toil it was developed into one of the finest farms in that region. The father erected commodious buildings, and also built a saw-mill and a grist-mill, and being a good mechanic, did much of the work himself. He died June 9, 1883, in his native State. James remained at home until 1876, and April 14 of that year he went to Wetzel County, Virginia, remaining there seven years, where he engaged in farming. After a few years he went into the scale business, and became a professional scale builder. From Wetzel County he went to Jackson, where he purchased a lot and erected two dwelling-houses, and supplied one of them with a valuable library of miscellaneous works. He devoted

a few months to the study of law, abandoning the task, however, for more congenial pursuits. June 29, 1885, he removed to Missouri, where he remained about a year. He was accompanied by one Peter Millhone, who became homesick soon after his arrival there. From Missouri he came to St. Mary's Township, this county, and engaged in building scales. In connection with this he also pursues other lines of business. His accumulations of property have been of his own efforts. His mother resides in one of his houses in West Virginia, and is well provided for. The family is scattered through the North and through the South. An uncle, Alexander Bunner, and a cousin, George A. Bunner, are among the most respected pioneers of St. Mary's Township. June 3, 1886, a brother of Mr. Bunner met with an unexpected and sad death. While walking along the railroad near Grafton, West Virginia, the passenger train ran over him, killing him instantly. He was about eighteen years of age, of fine personal appearance and noble qualifications. This was a very severe bereavement for the family. The other children, except John Randolph, are all living. James contemplates removing to Virginia in the near future.



VERNON L. SNOW, son of James B. Snow, deceased, resides on the family homestead, section 29, Wabash Township, where he was reared to manhood and educated in the common schools. He was born in Jay County, March 26, 1859, and came with his parents to Adams County when five years of age. When his father died he came into possession of the old homestead. He was married November 6, 1880, to Mary C. Vance, daughter of Marshall P. Vance, an old

settler of the Township. She was born in Hartford Township, this county, October 28, 1862. They have had three children—Jessie A., deceased; Gracie and Bertha. Mr. and Mrs. Snow are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

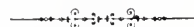


D. WILLIAM GERKE, farmer, residing on section 10, Root Township, is a native of Hanover, Germany, his parents, Herman and Agnes (Myer) Gerke, being natives of the same country, the father born September 16, 1802, and the mother January 1, 1805. They were reared and married in Hanover, Germany, and to them were born seven children—Frederick, F. D. William (our subject), Louisa, Louis, Sophia, Hermann and Minna, three born in Germany, and four in Adams County, Indiana. In 1836 the family came to America, landing in New York, going thence to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they remained with friends a short time. In February, 1837, they left Cincinnati for Decatur, Adams County, Indiana, making the journey by team, stopping a day or two at Decatur, when they came to their present farm, which was then occupied by the father's brother, Diedrich Gerke, who had come to America two years previous. The family made their home with Diedrich Gerke until the father had a small log cabin erected. This cabin contained but one room, and was only used for a sleeping room, the family living out of doors, where they also did their cooking the first summer. In the fall of the same year the father erected a hewed-log house, which was occupied by the family until 1854, when their present fine frame residence was built, which is now occupied by the subject of this sketch. The father died in this house October 3, 1864,

and is buried in Lutheran cemetery. The mother survived until July 31, 1881, and died at the home of her son Frederick Gerke, in Fort Wayne, while on a visit to her children, and is buried in the Concordia Lutheran cemetery at Fort Wayne. They were Lutherans in their religious faith, their children being reared in the same faith. F. D. William Gerke, whose name heads this sketch, was but three years of age when brought by his parents to Adams County, and here he grew to manhood on the home farm, and in his youth learned lessons of persevering industry which have been of great benefit in fitting him for the duties of life. He was married May 1, 1862, to Miss Lonisa W. K. Johnson, who was born in Allen County, Indiana, October 24, 1840, a daughter of John and Johanna (Piesano) Johnson, natives of Oldenburg, Germany, the father born October 28, 1812, and the mother in April, 1814. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gerke, of whom seven are living—Sophie M., Caroline M., Frederick C., Harmon F., Lonisa M., Henry J. and Carl L. J. H. Louis died aged four weeks, Eliza E. died aged two years and seven months, and William J. died at the age of eight weeks. In August, 1882, Mr. Gerke and his eldest daughter sailed for Germany to visit his old home, landing at Bremen, going and returning on the steamer Rhine. The weather being fine they had a most enjoyable time, returning to their home in Adams County after an absence of two months. Mr. and Mrs. Gerke relate many interesting incidents of their early pioneer life. When Mr. Gerke's parents were clearing their farm in Preble Township they went out one evening to stir up the fires, and hearing the owls hoot they mimicked them. The owls hearing them flew over their heads, which so scared them that they ran to the

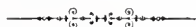
house, not knowing what they were. One day Mrs. Gerke's father went to Fort Wayne to buy groceries and found the store filled with Indians. Her father being in a hurry, and seeing a bundle on the counter, pushed it aside, when the bundle proved to be a pappoose and began to cry. The Indians then pitched into the father, and would have killed him if an Indian to whom he had given a chew of tobacco had not stepped forward and saved his life. Another time the father of Mrs. Gerke was working on the Maumee Canal when a fearful rainstorm came. The mother and children were much frightened and commenced praying for their father to come home, and in the midst of the storm while they were still crying and praying the father came. Soon after the Gerke family settled in the county the father went to mill with an ox team to Fort Wayne, a distance of twenty-one miles, expecting to be gone from home three days. On the evening of the third day the father had not come; the children commenced crying, never expecting to see him again, but about 11 o'clock in the evening he arrived, causing much rejoicing in the family. One night the father went out of doors soon after the children had gone to bed, and saw a bear near the house, but did not tell of this incident until a long time afterward, fearing that it would frighten the children. Mr. Gerke has made farming the principal avocation of his life, and has met with excellent success in his farming operations, and is now the owner of a fine property. Besides his home farm in Root Township, where he has 240 acres he has 117 acres of land in Maumee Township, Allen County. The grandparents of our subject, Henry and Julia (Colkmeier) Gerke, were born in Germany, the grandfather living in that country until his death. The grandmother came to America and died in Adams

County, Indiana, where she is buried in the Lutheran cemetery. John Johnson, the father of Mrs. Gerke, learned the baker's trade in his native country, but did not follow it after coming to America. He came to this country in 1837, and worked for a time on the Maumee Canal. He was married at Fort Wayne in 1838, to Johanna Piesano. To them were born eight children, as follows—Johanna, Louisa, Sophia, John, Elizabeth, Henry (died in 1849), Henry (died in 1875, aged twenty-five years), and Lisette (died aged four years). When Mrs. Gerke was five years old her parents came to Adams County, Indiana, and after living in Preble Township six years moved to Root Township, where they still reside, the father being now seventy-four years of age. Both are Lutherans, although Mrs. Johnson was reared in the Catholic faith.



JOSEPH BREMERCAMP was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 31, 1845, and was the eldest of two sons of Harmon and Mary (Heideman) Bremercamp. When three years of age, in 1848, his parents moved to Decatur, Indiana, where he was reared, obtaining his education in the public schools. When fifteen years of age he went into the office of the Decatur *Eagle* to learn the printer's trade, at which he worked two years. In 1863 he enlisted in the Union army as a bugler in Company C, Eleventh Indiana Cavalry, and served until the close of the war, being mustered out October, 1865. He was in the engagement at Nashville, and was at Huntsville when Wheeler made his raid on that city. After his discharge he remained in Decatur two years, and in 1867 enlisted in the United States Army as a private, a member of Company K, Twelfth United

States Infantry, and served three years, being discharged at the expiration of his term of service. From 1870 until 1875 he worked in Indianapolis and Anderson, Indiana, and Omaha, Nebraska, at his trade, at the latter place being foreman in the office of the Omaha *Bee* two years, and also interested in the Omaha daily *Union*. In 1875 he returned to Decatur and worked in the *Free Press* office until 1878, when he again enlisted and was assigned to Company B, Sixth United States Infantry, and served until the expiration of his term of service in 1883. While in the army he was on duty at Washington, D. C., Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, Omaha, Nebraska, Angel Island, California, Fort Abe Lincoln, Dakota, White River, Colorado, Fort Hall, Idaho, and Salt Lake, Utah. He was one of the guards that accompanied the surveyors on the extension of the Northern Pacific Railroad from Bismarek, Dakota, to Miles City, Montana. After his discharge he returned again to Decatur, and has since been in the saloon business. He was married October 2, 1883, to Mary Hart, a daughter of Jacob S. Hart, of Decatur. They have had two children—Major Jack Carland and Edna M. Mr. Bremercamp is a comrade of Sam Henry Post, No. 63, G. A. R.



WILLIAM R. MEEKS, proprietor of the "Meek" saw-mill and member of the firm of Watson & Meeks, grocers at Geneva, was born November 13, 1834, in Champaign County, Ohio. His father was born in Monongalia County, West Virginia, and his mother in Harrison County, same State. They were married in Virginia and soon after that event removed to Ohio, settling in Champaign County, where the

father followed farming. In 1843 they removed to Allen County, Indiana, settling in Monroe Township, where there were not more than a dozen settlers. They lived there until the death of the father, which occurred in November, 1880. The mother still resides there. William R. grew to manhood in Allen County, and received a common-school education. He remained at home on the farm until of age, then went to Marion County, Illinois, where he bought land and engaged in farming. July 22, 1861, he enlisted in Company K, Fortieth Illinois Infantry, and went South with his regiment. He participated in the battle of Shiloh, siege of Vicksburg, the second battle of Jackson, Mississippi, siege of Nashville, Kenesaw Mountain, besides other battles and skirmishes. He received a gun-shot wound in the knee, from the effects of which he was discharged, and now draws a pension. He received his final discharge July 18, 1865, and returned to his home in Illinois, where he lived until 1866, then engaged in the oil barrel stave business in Monroeville, Allen County, Indiana. He lived there until he came to Geneva, in 1873, and engaged in his present business. He was married April 2, 1867, to Laura A. Robbins, born in Kosciusko County, this State, June 14, 1850. Her father was a native of Massachusetts and her mother of Ohio. The parents were married in Cleveland, and went from Ohio to Indiana, where the father entered land, and where they lived until their decease. They reared a family of ten children, seven sons and three daughters. Five of the sons were soldiers in the late war, and all but one were killed. Mr. and Mrs. Meeks are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have had seven children, five of whom are living—Lou Anna, Allen L., Laura B., deceased, Bessie, Gracie, William C. and John M. Mr. Meeks is a member of John P. Por-

ter Post, No. 83, G. A. R. He is strictly a temperance man, using neither liquor nor tobacco.

BERMAN HENRY BREMERKAMP, a member of the firm of Bremerkamp & Van Camp, proprietors of the Fornax Roller Flouring Mills, Decatur, Indiana, is a native of Decatur, born December 30, 1852. He is the only son of John Henry and Magdalena (Hartman) Bremerkamp, early settlers of Decatur. He attended the public schools until 1865, when he was sent to St. Vinantis College, in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, his parents intending him to graduate from that institution. However his father died in 1868, and he was obliged to return home to assist his mother in the care of the mercantile business left by his father. He remained with his mother as clerk and manager until 1875, and in the meantime also engaged in business for himself, buying and shipping butter, eggs and produce. In 1875 he engaged in the grain business, and in 1879, with others, organized the Citizens' Bank, which was discontinued in 1880. In 1883 he again took the management of his mother's large mercantile interests, which he still continues. In 1886 he purchased the Fornax Mills, having owned a small interest in them since 1880. During the summer he remodeled it and made it a roller mill, and the same year became associated with Anson Van Camp, forming the present firm. In politics Mr. Bremerkamp is a Democrat. In 1879 he was elected city treasurer of Decatur, an office he has since held by re-election. January 9, 1879, he was married in St. Mary's Catholic Church to Barbara Klueber, daughter of Sebastian and Barbara Klueber, of Fort Wayne, Fathers Venhoff and Nuesbaum

officiating. At the same time his sister Magdalena was married to Ulrich Dinninger, of Fort Wayne. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bremerkamp are members of St. Mary's Church. They have had four children; but three are living—Anselm Anthony, Otto and Keyman. A daughter, Addie, died aged nine months.

DEMAS M. WOODRUFF, deceased, was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1820, a son of Joshua Woodruff, a native of Maine, of English descent. He was reared in his native county, and was there married February 25, 1844, to Maria Mitchell, a native of the same county, born February 26, 1824. October 23, 1863, he moved to Adams County, Indiana, and bought 120 acres of land in St. Mary's Township. A few weeks later he returned to Pennsylvania to settle up his business interests there, and when on his way home was killed in a railroad collision at New Brighton, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff had a family of seven children; five are living—Thomas M., born May 20, 1845; Reuben M., born February 8, 1847; Lucy J., born March 23, 1849; Violetta, born May 24, 1855, died June 28, 1857; Mary V., born February 25, 1857; Andrew J., born July 14, 1859; Samuel M., born April 8, 1861, died February 17, 1873. In politics Mr. Woodruff was a Democrat. Mrs. Woodruff is a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Mitchell) Mitchell, her father born in New Jersey, and her mother in Greene County, Pennsylvania. Her father was killed in a sugar camp by the falling of a tree, January 10, 1827, and June 20, 1830, her mother married Abner Tharp. She had a family of ten children, six by her first marriage, and

four by her second. Mrs. Woodruff is a member of the Christian church, in which she is a faithful and earnest worker.

FREDERICK F. FRECH, farmer, section 10, Union Township, came to this county November 20, 1871, and settled on his present farm, having purchased it in August, 1873, when it was in a wild state. Mr. Frech was born in Rhine, Bavaria, Germany, December 14, 1836, and came to America in August, 1838, with his parents and one other child. They landed in New York, and proceeded at once to Fairfield, Ohio, where they settled. The father being a minister of the Evangelical Association, they necessarily moved often. When he was fourteen years old his father purchased forty acres of land in Hancock County, Ohio. In the spring of 1863 our subject enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio Infantry. The regiment enlisted for 100 days, but was out four months. He was stationed at the Point of Rocks, at Turkey Bend, on James River. Here he was under fire for the first time. Some of his companions were killed and some wounded. The regiment was discharged, and Mr. Frech was afterward drafted in the fall of 1863, in the call for 300,000 men. He was placed in Company A, Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry, and joined the regiment at Marietta, Georgia, near Atlanta. The regiment had veteranized, and was attached to the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps. Mr. Frech was in all the engagements of his regiment. He went with Sherman to the sea, was in the charge of Fort McAllister and the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, that being the last battle of Sherman's army. He then marched to Washington and participated in

the grand review. He was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, and returned to his home. He then learned the carpenter's trade and worked for \$1 per day the first summer. He worked at his trade until he came to Adams County, since which time he has been engaged in farming. He was married December 3, 1867, to Miss Mary A. Graham, who was born in Hancock County, Ohio, in August, 1839, where she was reared and married. Her father, George W. Graham, was born in Madison County, of Scotch ancestry, and was about four years older than his wife. He died in Hancock County. The mother, Catherine (Crabel) Graham, was born in Stark County, Ohio, in 1818, and is still living in Hancock County. Mr. Frech's father, Frederick Frech, was born in Germany, November 29, 1809, where he was reared and married. He came to America in 1839, and died in Hancock County, November 3, 1885, upon the farm where he first settled. His mother, Elizabeth (Schaff) Frech, was born in Wagenheim, Germany, June 14, 1815, and is still living on the old homestead in Hancock County. The father was a circuit rider for twenty-five years, having been converted in Fairfield, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Frech have two children living and three deceased—Nellie, born February 16, 1873, and Frocia Alice, born March 4, 1879. The deceased are—Catherine E. died in the fall of 1870, at the age of ten weeks; Frederick G., born February 25, 1875, died July 9, 1882, by accidental drowning in his father's cistern. Mr. Frech's grandfather, Casper Frech, was born and died in Germany. His great-grandfather was a noted fresco painter, and in his day assisted in painting cathedrals. Mr. Frech was elected township trustee in the spring of 1886, and has served as justice of the peace for four years, being elected in 1880. Both himself and wife are

members of the Evangelical Association. Politically he is a Republican and a true loyal citizen of the United States.

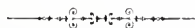
JOSEPHUS MARTIN, farmer, section 24, Hartford Township, is one of the old pioneers of Adams County, and was born in Hampshire County, Virginia, September 30, 1803. His parents were also natives of Virginia, his grandfather having settled there about the time of the Revolutionary war. They were of German origin. The family removed to Warren County, Ohio, where the parents died. Josephus went with his parents to Ohio, and remained at home until twenty-eight years of age, when he was married, March 25, 1830, to Catherine Summerfelt, born in New Jersey July 7, 1814. They had six children—Sarah, Rosetta, Ellen C., Morton J., Emma D. and Phebe C. Mrs. Martin died January 19, 1844, and January 27, 1845, Mr. Martin was married to Elizabeth Deffenbaugh, daughter of John Deffenbaugh, of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are the parents of eleven children.

GLIAS BARKLEY was born in Ashland County, Ohio, July 20, 1831, a son of Jacob and Harriet (Daugherty) Barkley, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born September 1, 1805, and the latter January 24, 1806. In 1849 the family came to Adams County, Indiana, and entered eighty acres of Government land, at the same time buying eighty acres in Union Township, and here the father died, January 24, 1856, and the mother September 2, 1879. His paternal grandparents, Jacob and Rosanna Barkley, were also natives of Pennsylvania, and died in

Wayne County, Ohio. Mr. Barkley was married October 16, 1856, to Mary Clem, a native of Champaign County, Ohio, born April 7, 1836, daughter of Noah and Magdelene (Ridenour) Clem, natives of Shenandoah County, Virginia, the former born September 27, 1810, and the latter in 1811. The mother died September 27, 1885, and the father is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Barkley have had seven children—Jeremiah, born July 26, 1857; John A., August 2, 1859; Joseph, January 11, 1861; Elizabeth A., January 15, 1868; William Penn, February 2, 1870; Mary T., born March 1, 1872, died October 31, 1879, and David J., born August 14, 1876.

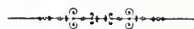
JAMES B. SNOW, deceased, was a prominent farmer of Wabash Township. He was born in Pennsylvania, February 9, 1818, and came to Jay County in 1837, with his parents, from Sandusky, Ohio. He remained at home until he reached his majority, then went to Texas, going on foot and by water. While in Texas he followed school-teaching. Although he received nothing but a common-school education, by hard study he obtained sufficient to enable him to teach school. He returned to Indiana, via Pennsylvania, and taught school in Westmoreland County. He then returned to Jay County, and entered the office of his brother, Barton B. Snow, M. D., at New Corydon, with whom he studied medicine. He afterward attended Jefferson Medical College, at Philadelphia, graduating in 1858. He practiced his profession at Ridgeville and Deerfield, in Randolph County, then came to Adams County and practiced near Buena Vista one year. In 1865 he purchased the farm on section 29, Wabash Township, on which he lived until his death, which

occurred December 11, 1876. He was twice married. His first wife was Eliza J. Lyon, whom he married August 2, 1857, died May 1, 1864. They had three children, one of whom, Vernon, is now living. He married his second wife, Lavinia Zimmerman, December 8, 1864. By this marriage there was one child. Mrs. Snow was a member of the Lutheran Reformed church. She died February 14, 1868.



JOHN DEFFENBAUGH, deceased, was born in Alleghany County, Maryland, in 1787, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was a saddler by trade, at which he worked in Maryland. He was married in his native county, to Miss Ellen Martin, also a native of Maryland. They immigrated to Indiana in the spring of 1837, settling in Hartford Township, this county. He lived upon that farm until his death in 1863. Mrs. Deffenbaugh died September 19, 1870. They had five children—Theodore, now deceased, Elizabeth, Mary F., also deceased, John L. and Aurilla. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. John L. Deffenbaugh, a son of the preceding, was born in Maryland, October 9, 1833. When four years of age he came to Adams County with his parents, where he grew to manhood in Hartford Township, and received a common-school education. He remained at home until his marriage, October 16, 1861, to Eliza M. Dorr, a native of Carroll County, Ohio, born October 4, 1847. Her parents were Payton and Elizabeth (Fish) Dorr, natives of Ohio, who immigrated to Root Township, this county, in 1858, and one year later removed to West Liberty, Jay County, where the father died. The mother again married, her second husband being Uriah Green.

They removed to Berne, thence to Geneva, where the mother still resides. By her first marriage there were nine children—Eliza M., George W. (deceased), Adeline, Amanda (deceased), Lizzie L., Mary A., Clara Delphine and Ruth Ella. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. After his marriage Mr. Deffenbaugh followed farming until May 8, 1864, when he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-ninth Indiana Infantry, serving until October 9, 1864, when his term of enlistment expired and he was discharged. He then returned to Adams County, where he has followed farming ever since. Their children are—James F., Rosa (deceased), Lotta (deceased), and Lizzzell. Mr. Deffenbaugh is a member of John P. Porter Post, No. 83, G. A. R.



JOHNS HENRY BREMERKAMP, deceased, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1801. In his youth he learned the tailor's trade, and worked as a journeyman in his native country until 1845, when he came to the United States, and located at Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1849 he moved to Decatur, Indiana, where he worked at his trade, and at the same time conducted a mercantile business until 1851, when he abandoned his trade and gave his entire attention to his other business until his death, which occurred November 11, 1868. He was one of the original members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and was for several years one of its trustees. He was married April 15, 1851, to Mrs. Magdalena (Hartman) Klaphake, daughter of Henry and Josephine (Steinway) Hartman, and widow of Gerhard Klaphake, who was born in Hanover, Germany, December 17, 1822, and when thirteen years of age accompanied her parents to the United States, they

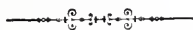
locating in New York City. February 13, 1841, she married Gerhard Klaphake, and in 1843 accompanied him to Decatur, Indiana, where he worked at the shoemaker's trade until his death in 1847. To this marriage were born four children, two of whom died in infancy. Two are living, both being residents of Decatur—Joseph, and Mary, wife of Jacob Fullenkamp. To Mr. and Mrs. Bremerkamp were born three children—Henry, Magdalena, wife of Ulrich Dininger, and Catherine, wife of Edward Ehinger. After the death of her husband Mrs. Bremerkamp took charge of his mercantile interests, and has since conducted the business in her own name. She is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

JOSEPH W. SMITH, farmer, is a native of St. Mary's Township, this county, born December 7, 1843, a son of Zachariah and Susanna (McClellan) Smith, who were of German and Irish descent. His parents settled in Adams County in a very early day, his father being the first sheriff of the county. Joseph has in his possession deeds signed by Andrew Jackson. His father was drowned while attempting to cross St. Mary's River, and his mother is still living. Joseph remained at home with his mother until 1862, when he enlisted in defense of his country, and was assigned to Company I, Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry. His regiment was captured by General Bragg at Munfordville, Kentucky, and after their parole participated in the Red River expedition and the Missouri and Tupelo expedition, and were then ordered to Nashville, where they fought two days, and at one time took more prisoners than there were soldiers in their regiment. Mr. Smith participated in many severe battles and skirmishes, the more

important being as follows: Munfordville, Kentucky, September 14, 1862; Fort De Russey, Louisiana, March 14, 1864; Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864; Marks-ville Prairie, Louisiana, May 16, 1864; Yellow Bayou, Louisiana, May 18, 1864; Tupelo, Mississippi, July 14, 1864; Nashville, Tennessee, October 15 and 16, 1864; Fort Blakely, Alabama, April 9, 1865. He was honorably discharged July 19, 1865. In February, 1866, he was married to Catherine Gulick, and to them were born five children—Annis, born May 22, 1867; Marietta, born August 28, 1868; Samuel W., July 17, 1870; Amos Z., January 4, 1872; William H., October 23, 1874. Mrs. Smith died in November, 1874, and April 17, 1876, Mr. Smith married Adeline Britton. They have had four children—Albert, born May 25, 1867; Willie F., July 3, 1869; Ora and Cora (twins), August 12, 1871. Cora died October 12, 1871, and Ora August 2, 1872.

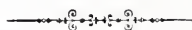
JOSEPH WHERRY, farmer and stock-raiser, Union Township, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, December 17, 1837. When he was about fifteen years old he and his parents came to Indiana, first settling in Monroe Township, Allen County. There were seven children besides himself in his father's family. They lived in Allen County two years, on rented land, and then the father bought a farm. He built his own log house, which was 18 x 20 feet in size, and a story and a half in height. He afterward added a kitchen, and lived in that house until his death. The father, Adam Wherry, was born in Pennsylvania, January 27, 1814, and when a young boy removed to Carroll County, Ohio, with his parents, and was there reared to manhood. He died April 26, 1881,

and is buried in Clark's chapel, Union Township. His mother was Eve (Umbaugh) Wherry. His paternal grandparents were born in Carroll County, and died in Pennsylvania. His maternal grandfather, George Umbaugh, died in Pennsylvania, and his grandmother Umbaugh died in Carroll County, Ohio. Mr. Wherry was married November 21, 1861, to Miss Elizabeth H. Rice, who was born in Union Township, Adams County, May 16, 1844, where she lived until her marriage. She is a daughter of William P. and Frances (Rabbett) Rice. Mr. and Mrs. Wherry have nine children—William P., Mary E., Frances E., Joseph A., Alice E., Hulda E., Warren A., Bessie V. and Hannah. Mr. Wherry owns 168 acres of land. He built his house in the summer of 1881, at a cost of \$2,500. Politically he is a Democrat.



WILLIAM WILLARD MOSES, agent for the United States Express Company at Decatur, Indiana, is a native of Carroll County, Ohio, born November 24, 1832, a son of John and Rebecca (Stattler) Moses, natives of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, of German parentage. They were married in 1824, and in 1832 moved to Carroll County, Ohio, where the father died in 1872, aged seventy-two years. The mother died near Decatur, Indiana, in 1868, aged sixty-eight years, while on a visit to her children. In politics John Moses was first a Whig, and then a Republican. He was for several years a justice of the peace. Both were members of the Lutheran church. W. W. Moses was reared in his native county, and when twenty years of age went to New Cumberland, Ohio, where he was employed in a mercantile establishment two years. In

October, 1854, he came to Adams County, Indiana, and was employed as clerk for J. D. & J. M. Nuttman, of Decatur, until 1860, and in the fall of that year became associated with D. Crabbs, under the name of Crabbs & Moses, in the general mercantile business at Newville, Wells County. In the fall of 1863 they moved their business to Decatur and admitted B. J. Rice to the firm, changing the name to Crabbs, Moses & Rice. In 1870 he retired from the firm and became a member of the H. W. Shockley & Co. Manufacturing Company, which afterward became a stock company known as the Shockley Wheel Company, from which he withdrew in 1874. He then engaged in the hardware business at Geneva, Indiana, until 1880, when he closed out his business and returned to Decatur, and was soon after appointed by the United States Express Company agent at Decatur. In politics Mr. Moses is a Republican. He has served one term as councilman of Decatur. November 4, 1862, he was married to Miss Julia Patterson, daughter of James and Eliza (Patterson) Patterson. They have four children—Louis C., a telegraph operator; Nettie, a teacher in the Decatur schools; Homer P., a clerk in the office with his father, and Warren W., still a student. Mr. and Mrs. Moses are members of the Presbyterian church.



WILLIAM H. H. BRIGGS, carpenter, residing at Geneva, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, October 15, 1836. His father, Andrew Briggs, was born in Maryland in 1786, and when seven years of age removed with his parents to Ohio, who settled in Muskingum County, where he was twice married. His first wife was Ellen Linn, who was born in Ohio and

died in that State. She was the mother of two sons and two daughters. His second wife was Sarah Finley, a native of Ohio, where she died in 1845. She had four sons and four daughters. The father died in February, 1863, aged seventy-seven years. He was engaged in the mercantile trade at Rockville, Ohio, for several years, and afterward removed to Hancock County, where he followed farming until his death. His father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and also in the war of 1812. William H. was reared at home on a farm, and when nineteen years old went to learn the carpenter's trade, which he has since followed. He enlisted in the army September 5, 1864, and after sixty days was discharged for disability. He is a member of John P. Porter Post, No. 83, G. A. R. Mr. Briggs was married April 20, 1859, to Catherine Harmel, who was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, April 2, 1838, and they were the parents of five sons and one daughter. Mrs. Briggs died July 1, 1884. His second son is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is now in charge of the church at Fort Wayne. His children are—Andrew G., Albertus T., William, Ellen, Charles J. and John E.

REBUEN LORD, one of the pioneers of Adams County, was born in Cambridge, Franklin County, Vermont, July 15, 1807, son of Reuben and Mary (Devoll) Lord, the former a native of Boston. He came to Adams County in the fall of 1836, and settled in Root Township, entering eighty acres of land from the Government. He subsequently sold this place and bought his present homestead. He was married March 6, 1830, to Sabrina Benson, a native of New York State, born December 25, 1812. They had a family of

eleven children—Harriet, Martha, Fidelia (deceased), Martin, Franklin, Otis C. (deceased), Phidelia, William Henry, Mary, Matilda and Elmira. Mrs. Lord died, and Mr. Lord was married November 26, 1869, to Mrs. Ruth (Mickle) Chenoweth, daughter of Reuben and Mary (Martin) Mickle, and widow of John P. Chenoweth. They have one child—Cora C. To the first marriage of Mrs. Lord were born four children—Thomas W., Reuben, John P. and Rachel A.

JAMES ROBISON, deceased, was born in Champaign County, Ohio, January 5, 1810. He was reared in his native county, and after his marriage came to Adams County, Indiana, arriving here February 28, 1843. He entered eighty acres of Government land, and, with the help of his wife, built a shanty, in which they lived six weeks until a hewed-log house had been built. They kept bravely at work in spite of many hardships and trials, and to their first purchase added until at the death of Mr. Robison they owned 320 acres of valuable land. Mr. Robison was married in Delaware County, Indiana, his wife being a native of Champaign County, Ohio, born in 1818, her father moving to Indiana a short time before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Robison had a family of six children—Frances, wife of William McCampbell; Maria; Perry; Jane, died aged twenty-two years; Mary, wife of W. Lewton, and Oliver, who died aged three years.

JAMES C. PATTERSON, deputy postmaster at Decatur, is the youngest of six children of James Patterson, who came to Adams County in 1839, and was

born at Decatur, September 19, 1855. He lived at home until eighteen year of age, and was educated in the public schools of that place. He then learned telegraphy, and was employed as agent and operator by the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company from 1873 to 1881. For the next three years he was bookkeeper and assistant cashier in the Adams County Bank. He was elected city clerk in May, 1885, and appointed deputy postmaster by Norval Blackburn in July, 1885, both of which positions he now holds. He was also elected a director in the Eagle Manufacturing Company in 1886. He was married February 26, 1880, to Miss Lida Irwin, at Winchester, Indiana. Their two children are named Fred I. and Dora Marie. Mr. Patterson is a Democrat, and a member of the Knights of Pythias.

GEORGE W. MENEFEE, an active and enterprising farmer of Wabash Township, residing on section 10, was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, in the year 1824. His parents were also natives of Loudoun County, and later moved to what is now Monongalia County, West Virginia, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1861, aged seventy-four years, and the mother dying in 1876. George W., our subject, grew to manhood in Virginia, being reared on a farm and educated in the district schools. He was united in marriage in Virginia, February 22, 1849, to Miss Margaret Stoops, who was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, November 9, 1833, a daughter of James Stoops, Sr., who was born in the State of Pennsylvania, and came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1852. To Mr. and Mrs. Menefee have been born eleven children, of whom six still survive—

Mary E., Nancy F., Edgar P., Virginia, Carrie L. and David C. Mr. Menefee came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1852, settling in Wabash Township, where he has since devoted his attention to his farm, and is classed among the old and respected pioneers of the county.

ZACHARIAH SMITH, deceased, was a native of Fayette County, Ohio, born in 1809, a son of Isaac Smith. His parents were natives of Virginia, of German and Irish parentage, and in an early day settled in Ohio, where by honest and industrious efforts they secured a considerable amount of real estate, owning at one time, in Ohio and Indiana, 2,500 acres. Zachariah Smith was reared in his native county, and in 1832 was married to Susanna McClellan, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1812. They lived in Ohio about three years after their marriage, and in 1835 moved to Adams County, Indiana, and settled in St. Mary's Township. Mr. Smith became one of the prominent citizens of the county, and was its first sheriff, serving two terms. He was a reliable officer, and during his term escorted the first convict sentenced in the county to States' prison. He also served three times as assessor, and was the candidate of his party for Representative, but was defeated by a small majority. He was at one time commissioner of Jay County, and helped lay out the county seat. He was a generous and public-spirited man, and was a friend to the needy. He was drowned in the St. Mary's River, July 7, 1844, while endeavoring to cross to procure a gift for a sick person. He left a family of nine children—Nancy, Mary, Martha, Catherine, Sarah, John, Jane, Isaac and Joseph W. John died, aged ten years, and the rest are



O. W. Smith

living. The wife was thus left with a large family to care for, but she went bravely to work and succeeded well, as is attested by the esteem in which they are held in the county. She is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

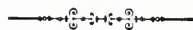
PHILIP WESLEY SMITH, a member of the Adams County Lumber Company, at Decatur, Indiana, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, near Massillon, in 1851. His parents, Henry and Catherine (Leppa) Smith, were natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they were married, and in 1834 they came to the United States and settled in Ohio. In 1854 they removed to Whitley County, Indiana, and located near the line of Allen County, where the father died in September, 1885, at the age of nearly eighty-five years. The mother is still living at Churubusco, Whitley County. They were the parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy. Philip W. Smith was reared in Whitley County, and was given the benefits of the common schools. He remained with his parents until his majority, and then was variously employed for two years, when he became associated with Jacob Colter, and engaged in lumbering at Arcola, Indiana, under the firm name of Colter & Co. They manufactured lumber in Arcola eight years, and then enlarged their field of operations, and now have five mills, three in Allen County and two in Adams County. Their mill at Decatur is conducted under the name of the Adams County Lumber Company, Mr. Smith having charge of the business at that place, as well as Monmouth and Williams mills. They carry on an extensive business, their sales being mostly to the railroad companies. Mr. Smith is a practical business man, and thus

far through life has been a successful one. In addition to his large lumber interests he is the vice-president of the Decatur National Bank, in which he has a large interest. He is an honorable, upright man, and a worthy member of the Christian church, of which he is a liberal supporter. He is a member of the Odd Fellows order, Harmony Lodge, No. 19, and Harmony Encampment, No. 12, at Fort Wayne. Mr. Smith was married October 30, 1883, at Decatur, to Miss Katie Beery, a native of Adams County, a daughter of Abraham J. and Betsey (Welty) Beery, pioneers of this county. They have two children—Erman Clyde and Florence Irene. Mr. Smith is one of the hearty supporters of all enterprises of Decatur, such as the building of churches and improvements of all kinds that have a tendency for the good of mankind generally.

JAMES PATTERSON was one of the pioneers of Adams County. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, April 26, 1810. In 1817 he emigrated with his parents to Wayne County, Ohio. When he arrived at the age of twenty-seven he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Peterson, and shortly after he removed to St. Mary's, Ohio. In the spring of 1839 he came to reside in the newly laid out town of Decatur, where he continued to live until his death, which occurred November 13, 1875. He became a member of the Presbyterian church of Decatur in the winter of 1845, under the ministry of Rev. J. H. Nevius. Shortly after he became a member he was elected and ordained deacon, which office he held until death. He was next to the oldest of a family of six brothers and two sisters, and was the first one of the brothers

was born in Derbyshire, England, in 1790. He was reared and married in England, and in 1818 came to America with wife and two children, settling in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. They lived there a short time, then removed to Stark County, Ohio, thence to Carroll County, where the father entered land from the Government. He was a wheelwright by trade, and also rode the Methodist circuit for many years. The parents come to this county with their son Wesley, and the farm was purchased by both. They lived here until the mother's death, then the father went to live with other members of the family. He died in 1876, lamented by all who knew him. The mother, Phoebe (Ward) Wass, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1792, and died in Decatur, this county. Both are buried in the Monroeville cemetery. The mother was the first school-teacher in Carroll County, Ohio, and organized the first Sunday-school in Brown Township. She taught school free of charge, from purely philanthropic motives. Our subject was married May 2, 1861, to Miss Elizabeth D. Pottorf, who was born in Carroll County, Ohio, in 1842, where she was reared and married. Her parents are Jacob S. and Hannah (Gillmore) Pottorf, the father born in Pennsylvania, and the latter in Ohio; they are not living in Carroll County. Mrs. Wass died March 6, 1875, aged about thirty-four years, and is buried Union Bethel cemetery. There were eight children in the family—Luella A., born February 26, 1862, wife of R. K. Erwin; Lucy L., born March 30, 1863, became the wife of John A. Barkley; Emory D., born April 12, 1866; Mary O., born November 24, 1868; Alice S., born May 1, 1871; Charles, born March 2, 1875. Mr. Wass married for a second wife, Caroline Wagner, who was born in Germany, and came to America with her parents, who settled in Ohio. She died July 12, 1881, leav-

ing two children—Daisy D. and Maude E. Politically Mr. Wass is a Republican, and has served as township trustee. His paternal grandparents died in England. The grandfather of his wife, Andrew Pottorf, was of German descent, and died in Carroll County, Ohio.



EBENEZER ROEBUCK, an active and enterprising citizen of Pleasant Mills, was born in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, Indiana, a son of Abner and Margaret (Brisbon) Roebuck, natives of Ohio, the father born in Fayette County, October 23, 1813, and the mother in 1817. They immigrated to St. Mary's Township in 1839, where the father purchased eighty acres, which they began to clear and improve. Before much progress had been made, however, the mother became violently ill with milk sickness, in consequence of which they removed to a more healthy locality, settling on a farm near Pleasant Mills. They subsequently moved to Ohio, but soon afterward returned to Indiana. The father enlisted in an Ohio regiment in 1864, serving his country until the close of the war, when he received an honorable discharge. After the war he moved to Michigan, locating in Kalamazoo County, where he purchased forty acres of land. He finally settled in Kent County, where he died November 25, 1885. He was an earnest and worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church until his death. His widow still survives, and is living on the homestead in Kent County, Michigan. She is an active Christian lady, and is a member of the Protestant Methodist denomination. Ebenezer Roebuck, whose name heads this sketch, was a brave and gallant soldier during the war of the Rebellion. He enlisted Sep-

tember 21, 1861, in Company A, Twenty-first Ohio Infantry, and was mustered into the service at Camp Lyon, Worthington, Ohio, when he was immediately ordered to the front. In the spring of 1862, on arriving at Cincinnati, he was ordered to Paducah, Kentucky, and was there detailed as teamster. His regiment participated in the battle of Shiloh, where it lost heavily, this being one of the first regiments fired on by the Confederates. From there the regiment was ordered to Corinth, where it was joined by our subject, and took part in a two weeks' skirmish. Mr. Roebuck then went with his regiment to Moscow, Tennessee, where almost all of his company were taken prisoners. This capture was accomplished by a very cowardly device. The rebels had brought into the Federal camp prisoners for parole, and on their return had captured the Federal pickets, including the Captain of Company A. They were, however, soon paroled and joined their company. The regiment went to Memphis, Tennessee, where Mr. Roebuck was detailed as teamster, a duty he performed about three months, when he again joined his regiment and started for Vicksburg, Mississippi. Their supplies were cut off at Hollow Springs, which forced them to return to La Grange, Tennessee. From Tennessee the regiment went to Vicksburg by water, where Mr. Roebuck took part in that hard-fought battle. The regiment then proceeded to Jackson, Mississippi, taking part in that hotly contested battle. Mr. Roebuck was here detailed to drive a division train while his regiment returned to Memphis. Our subject subsequently went to Chattanooga, and all along the march took part in engagements and skirmishes. He participated with his regiment in the engagements at Kennesaw Mountain, Pigeon Roost and Missionary Ridge. In the advance at Missionary Ridge

Mr. Roebuck was badly injured, having been run over by a heavily loaded wagon drawn by six mules, on account of which he was sent back to Bridgeport, thence to Nashville, which place he left and joined the wagon train at Bridgeport. He was then appointed wagon master, and served faithfully in this position almost a year. From Bridgeport he went to Scottsborough, where the regiment was veteranized, then returned home on a thirty days' furlough. During the absence of his regiment Mr. Roebuck went to Tennessee and was engaged in the battle of Pigeon Roost, where the Union forces suffered defeat. He then returned to Bridgeport with the wagon train which he had in charge. In the spring of 1864 he participated in the Atlanta campaign, fighting along the march, and was engaged in the two days' fight at Atlanta, the 22d and 28th of July. He was also at the engagement at Eastport, which was the last battle seen by him, and here he had the satisfaction of seeing the rebels retreat after making a desperate and persistent charge, the huzzas of the Union soldiers on this occasion drowning the din of cannon and musketry. Shortly after this battle Mr. Roebuck was mustered out of the service, receiving an honorable discharge September 20, 1864. Upon his discharge paper is the endorsement of the time he was mustered for final pay, dated September 28, 1864, and signed by W. G. Tanell, paymaster, United States Army. After the war Mr. Roebuck returned to St. Mary's Township, Adams County, and June 21, 1865, he was married to Lucinda Catherine Ellis, a daughter of William and Phoebe (McDorman) Ellis, who were pioneers of Ohio. Mrs. Roebuck was left an orphan when only five years of age. Her father was shot and robbed while passing through a field, on his way to make the final payment on a piece of land he had purchased, and

his body was not found for several days. He was the father of three children—Lucinda Catherine, Juda and a son who died in infancy. Juda married Thomas Hudson, of St. Mary's Township, and died in 1872, leaving three children—Andrew, Albert and Cally. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Roebuck—Stephen, born March 25, 1866; Albert A., July 17, 1867; Grant, May 9, 1869; Oscar, April 28, 1871; Flora B., September 6, 1873; Perry, December 6, 1875; Edda, born August 16, 1878, died July 26, 1881, and Eda, born July 16, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Roebuck lived at St. Mary's, Ohio, after their marriage until 1867, when they came to St. Mary's Township, Adams County, Indiana, and settled in the village of Pleasant Mills, where Ebenezer engaged in blacksmithing, and is now engaged in the lumber business and operating a saw-mill at the same place. He is a member of Sam Henry Post, No. 53, G. A. R., at Decatur. Mrs. Roebuck is an earnest member of the Baptist church.

JOSEPH MILLER, deceased, was one of the pioneers of Adams County, and for nearly forty years a prominent citizen. He was born in France, in 1818, a son of Christian and Elizabeth Miller, natives of Germany. When he was ten years old his parents came to America, and first settled in Wayne County, Ohio, where they lived until 1840, when they came to Indiana, and located in Union Township, Adams County, where they passed the remainder of their lives. He was reared in Ohio, and was there married to Anna Miller, a native of Germany, born in 1819, and although of the same name, not a relative. To them were born eight children, five of whom are living. Mr. Miller

died October 10, 1879, and his widow still lives on the homestead in Union Township. In politics he was a Democrat.

COVEY GALLAWAY, deceased, who was one of the pioneers of Adams County, was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, in 1801, his parents being natives of the same State. His father being a farmer he was reared to the same avocation, which he followed through life. He grew to manhood in his native State, and subsequently went to Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio, where he married Matilda Hurst, who was also a native of Kentucky. To this union were born eight children, four sons and four daughters. They came to Indiana in the spring of 1840, and settled on section 1, Wabash Township, Adams County, where the father entered 160 acres of land, residing on this farm till his death, which occurred January 18, 1875, aged seventy-four years and three months. The mother died December 3, 1854, aged forty-five years and eleven months. The father was a thorough, practical farmer, and by his industry and good management he was enabled to add to his original purchase until he owned at one time 360 acres. He was an enterprising and public-spirited citizen, and always took an active interest in the advancement of his township or county. When he first came to Adams County he was obliged to go to Fort Wayne, Allen County, to mill. Sannel Gallaway, the seventh child of Covey and Matilda Gallaway, was born on the homestead in Wabash Township, Adams County, the date of his birth being August 18, 1847. He grew to manhood on the home farm, remaining with his father till he became of age, and in his youth received the benefits of a common-school education. In

1870 he went to McLean County, Illinois, where he worked on a farm two years. He then returned to Adams County, and a year later, September 25, 1873, he was married to Miss Mary E. Menefee, who was born in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, December 15, 1852, a daughter of George W. Menefee, an early settler of Adams County. To Mr. and Mrs. Gallaway have been born two children—Jennie C., born April 2, 1881, died July 28, 1882, and Norval B., born June 15, 1884. On leaving McLean County, Illinois, Mr. Gallaway returned to Adams County, and engaged in saw-milling, which he followed for fourteen years, when in 1885 he removed to his present farm, and has since been engaged in farming, in which he is meeting with good success, and is classed among the respected men of Wabash Township.

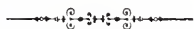
MICHAEL ENGLE, an active and enterprising farmer of Wabash Township, residing on section 13, was born in Luxemburg, Germany, in the year 1833. He grew to manhood in his native country, being reared to agricultural pursuits. In 1856 he immigrated to the United States, locating in Albany County, New York, where he worked for farmers, remaining in that county until 1860. In 1859 he was married to Miss Catherine Snorr, a native of Prussia, born in 1837. She came to America with her parents when a child, they settling in Albany County, New York, where they made their home till death. To Mr. and Mrs. Engle have been born nine children—Kate, John, Lena, Mary, Elizabeth, Maggie, Jane, William and Frederick. In 1860 Mr. Engle came to Indiana, residing in Wayne County until 1875, when he came to Adams County, living in Jefferson Township until March 1,

1884, when he bought and removed to his present home in Wabash Township. His farm consists of eighty acres of land, forty acres being under fine cultivation, and he is devoting his attention to general farming. Mr. Engle came to America in limited circumstances, and by his own industry and persevering energy, assisted by his excellent wife, he has succeeded in securing their present comfortable home, and gaining the respect and good will of all who know him.

IRA ALLEN BLOSSOM, of Decatur, Indiana, is a native of Adams County, born in Root Township, February 19, 1840, the youngest of two sons of Benjamin F. and Mary (Hushaw) Blossom. His mother died when he was an infant, and he was taken to the home of an uncle in Fort Wayne, with whom he lived in various places in Indiana, spending the most of his time, however, in Adams County, and is now one of the business men of Decatur.

REV. ISAAC TEETERS, of Adams County, Indiana, is a native of Ohio, born in Darke County January 21, 1855. When fourteen years old he came with his parents to Adams County, and here he was reared and educated. After completing his education he began teaching school, which he followed successfully for several terms. At the age of eighteen years he experienced religion and united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and in 1877 he entered the ministry, which calling he has since followed. He is now a minister of the Disciple church, having united with that denomination in 1882. He was married January 1, 1880, to Miss Lydia

A. Glancy, a daughter of William G. Glancy, of Adams County, and to this union have been born two children—Olive O., born June 12, 1881, and Mary Viola Gracie, born January 15, 1883.

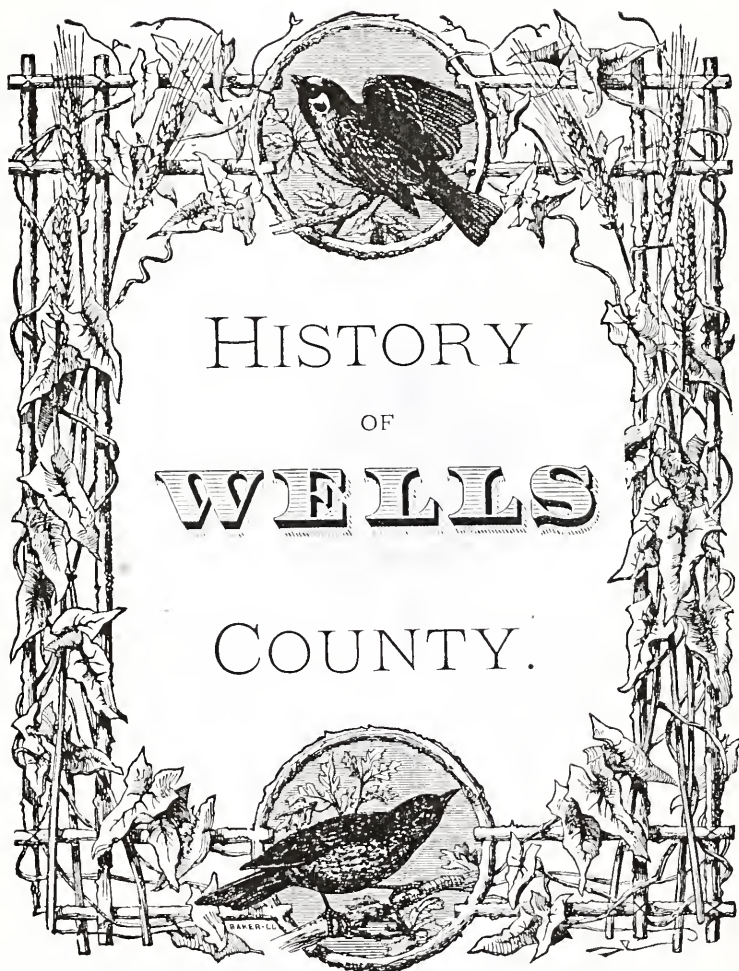


ROBERT S. PETERSON is the oldest active member of the Adams County bar. His parents, John W. and Hannah (Smith) Peterson, came to this county in an early day, and were here married in 1840. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are yet living. John W. Peterson lives in St. Mary's Township, three and one-half miles east of Decatur. His wife died in Benton County, Iowa, in February, 1859. Of their living children Robert is the second in age. He was born February 1, 1845, on section 17, St. Mary's Township, and lived with his parents until eighteen years of age, attending the common district schools and also select schools. March 9, 1864, he enlisted in Company G, Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry, with which he served until the regiment was discharged, November 18, 1865. Returning home he taught and attended school by turns until the spring of 1867, when he began the study of law with Judge David Studabaker. His study was interrupted by teaching school again the following winter. In the spring of 1868 he was ad-

mitted to the bar, though he continued his course of reading until the December following before beginning the practice of law on his own account. He has now practiced continuously for nineteen years. Mr. Peterson's long residence in the county seat, and his prominent connection with all important public movements, have made him one of the best known men in Adams County. He is not a politician, though taking that degree of interest in politics which is the duty of every good citizen. Though a Republican, he was president of the Board of Trustees of the strongly Democratic town of Decatur for the five years preceeding the adoption of the city form of government, in 1882. To him belongs the credit of organizing and perfecting the sewerage system of Decatur. He assisted in organizing and pushing the narrow-gauge railroad through this county, and also, though to a less extent, the Chicago & Atlantic. He is a Mason, was a charter member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and belongs to the Presbyterian church. Mr. Peterson was married September 25, 1868, at Concord Church, Root Township, to Miss Fannie C. Kunkel, daughter of Samuel Kunkel. To this union have been born the following children—John S., Dora L., Martha A., Mary G., Kittie C., Lizzie Pearl, Calvin D., Bernice, Thomas E. and one which died in infancy. The first two graduated from the Decatur High School in 1887.





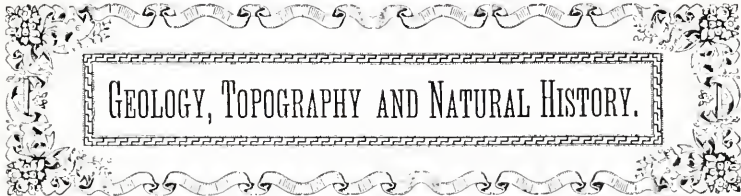




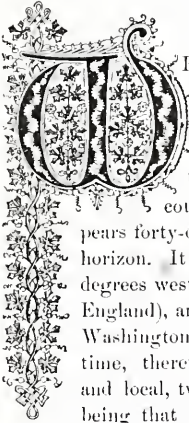
The page is framed by a wide, intricate border of repeating floral and geometric motifs. In the center, the title is presented on two horizontal rectangular plaques. The top plaque contains the word 'GENERAL' in a bold, serif font, and the bottom plaque contains the word 'HISTORY.' in the same font. These plaques are connected by a vertical stem that features a small floral ornament at the top and a decorative finial at the bottom. The entire central composition is embellished with delicate, symmetrical floral and leaf patterns.

GENERAL
HISTORY.





GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.



WELLS COUNTY lies about forty one degrees north of the equator, and therefore to the inhabitants of the county the north star appears forty-one degrees north of the horizon. It is also about eighty-five degrees west of Greenwich (London, England), and eight degrees west of Washington, D. C. Difference of time, therefore, between standard and local, twenty minutes, the local being that much in advance of the standard. The county belongs to the north-eastern section of the State of Indiana, being bounded on the north by Allen County, on the east by Adams County (the State of Ohio being next east of Adams), on the south by Jay and Blackford counties, and on the west by Grant and Huntington counties. It extends north and south twenty-four miles, and east and west on its south boundary twenty miles, and on its north line fourteen miles, comprising nine municipal townships, or nine whole and three half Congressional townships. Square miles, 372.

Northern Indiana is covered with what is called in geology the drift, consisting of gravel, sand and clay, deposited by water when it lay under that element. The "lake region" was one great lake, covering Northern Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, as well as Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc. The dip of the underlying strata in Northern Indiana is generally westward, but in Adams and Wells counties it is nearly northward, and about eight feet to the mile.

The recent drilling for natural gas at Bluffton developed the following strata, counting from the surface downward: Drift, 12 feet; water limestone, 16 feet; Niagara limestone, 44 feet; crystal limestone, 23 feet; blue limestone, 15 feet; crystal limestone, 185 feet; Clinton group, 75 feet; shale, 395 feet; slate, 285 feet; Trenton group, 150 feet; a total of 1,200 feet.

Although most of the subsoil in this part of the State is gravelly, good brick clay abounds in many places, so that brick can always be made convenient to the place of building. Good limestone for foundations, bridge abutments, etc., also abounds along the Wabash, Salamonie and St. Mary's

rivers, near the surface, and even cropping out in places.

South of the Maumee Valley is a terminal moraine, which is the summit of the watershed dividing the waters of the Ohio from those of Lake Erie, known as the St. John's Ridge in Ohio, extending westward into Jay County, Indiana, where it is known as the "Lost Mountains." The elevation of this ridge is nearly 350 feet above Lake Erie. The boulder clay is thicker here than in any other part of Northeastern Indiana. In Jay and Wells counties, scattered promiscuously, are found many specimens on top of the drift, of streaked and grooved boulders, the rounded and polished surfaces, often on the upper side, demonstrating that they had been ground and polished at a higher level, and then frozen in ice, transported, and dropped from the melting ice.

Another expansion of the torrid zone drove the ice further north, leaving the great lake basin filled with water, which covered Upper Canada, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the northern portions (about half) of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Wells and Jay counties have other superficial ridges, knolls, mounds, etc., the origin of which may be easily accounted for by anyone familiar with the effects of winds and currents. Comparatively, these accumulations of sand and gravel are recent. Underlying them, and above the coarse gravel resting upon the bed-rock, is a thick stratum of fine clay, which is the foundation of the agricultural resources of this region.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The surface of Wells and Adams counties varies from level to gently undulating, the level being inclined to have a swampy appearance; but as the land is generally high above the rapidly running water-courses, it

can be thoroughly drained, and ditches and tile drains are in rapid process of construction. The southeastern portion of this section, as before noted, is much the highest, and therefore the streams run in a northwesterly direction.

The largest stream is the Wabash, which runs northwesterly through Harrison, Lancaster and Rock Creek townships, Wells County. The second in size is the St. Mary's, draining the most of Adams County. Third, the Salamonie enters Wells County about a mile west of the center of the south line, and leaves the county a mile west of the middle of the north line of Jackson Township. Rock Creek rises in the western portion of Nottingham Township, flows a little west of north through Liberty and Rock Creek townships, emptying into the Wabash in Huntington County. Six-Mile Creek drains the eastern portion of Nottingham Township, and empties into the Wabash about three miles above Bluffton; and Eight-Mile Creek rises in the eastern part of Jefferson Township, and flowing a little north of west, leaves the county at its northwestern corner.

There are no lakes in Wells County except two small ones in Jackson Township, and they are growing smaller, the larger one comprising now only about forty acres.

THE FOREST.

When the white man first entered this region he found it covered with a dense growth of deciduous trees, consisting principally of white, burr and black oak, white elm, basswood (lin), ash of two or three varieties, beech, sugar maple, hickory, yellow poplar and walnut. The last mentioned, being the most valuable, has been nearly all cut out. Yellow poplar is becoming scarce. Two or three specimens of sweet gum were noticed in early days. Most of the other trees men-

tioned above are valuable, and are still abundant, owing to the lateness of the introduction of railroads. Hence the business of getting out railroad ties, staves and heading and hard-wood lumber is now in its prime; but for some reason not well understood the oaks are dying out to a limited extent.

The blackberry is the most valuable of the wild fruits in this section. About eleven miles south of Bluffton a few years ago there were 320 acres of blackberry in one piece.

Cultivation has introduced weeds from the East to supplant, in a great measure, the native herbs. The first introduced were the dog fennel or mayweed, jimson-weed, cocklebur and smart-weed; but as no plant can hold a spot of ground beyond a limited number of seasons, some of these have given way to the ragweed; and this, in turn, will shortly have to yield the situation to the sweet clover, a more welcome visitor than all, as it is a prolific source of honey, and has no disagreeable feature. The ox-eye daisy, a weed too omnipresent in the East, is beginning to make its appearance here, but as it flourishes only in a gravelly soil, those farmers who have only a clay soil need not fear its approach. Dandelion, white clover and blue-grass carpet most of the ground, the two latter plants being of great utility to man.

ANIMALS.

The largest and most conspicuous animals found here by the early settlers were the following: Black bear, in limited numbers, and soon killed off. Rarely, in later years, an individual or two might be seen straying

along here from Michigan. The Virginia deer, in great abundance. The last seen in this region was about twelve years ago. Panthers, a few, and terrible. Wild cats, of two species, occasionally. Beaver and porcupine, rare, in the very earliest day. Raccoons, once abundant, are now rare. Opossums came in between 1840 and 1850, became common, but a severe winter a few years ago killed off what the dogs and hunters had left. Foxes, once common, are now seldom seen. Wolves, at first numerous, were all killed off many years ago. Ground-hogs, or "wood-chucks," were never plentiful, and are so scarce now that seldom can one be found. No otters have been seen for many years, though they were frequent in early days. A few muskrats remain. Wild hogs, that is, domestic hogs escaped and running at large until they fully attained the savage state, were common in pioneer times. In a few generations these animals became as furious and dangerous as wolves.

In primeval times there sometimes occurred a "raid," when squirrels, pigeons, etc., would migrate across the country in incredible numbers. About the year 1855 there was a squirrel raid here, eastward in its direction.

Wild turkeys, once plentiful, are now rare.

Some accounts of hunting scenes, and the experiences of early settlers with the wild and savage denizens of the forest, we will give a little further on, under the sub-head of "Reminiscences," in the chapter on "Early Settlement."



EARLY SETTLEMENT.

I hear the tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be,—
The first low wash of waves which soon
Shall roll a human sea.

The rudiments of empire here
Are plastic yet and warm;
The chaos of a mighty world
Is rounding into form.

Each rude and jostling fragment soon
The fitting place shall find,—
The raw material of a State,
Its muscle and its mind.

—WHITTIER.

DR. JOSEPH KNOX was the first white man to make his home in Wells County, being also the first to settle at any point between Fort Recovery and Huntington, and that was in the year 1829, on the southeast quarter of section 18, Lancaster Township, near Murray Postoffice, or the village of Lancaster. Shortly after his location here he was joined by his two sons-in-law, Vantrees and Warner, who "took up" the tracts since known as the Robert and James Harvey farms. Both came with their families and remained until

1832, when they were all frightened out of the country by wild rumors concerning the Black Hawk war.

Allen and Isaac Norcross came in 1831, settling near the river below Bluffton, the former locating on the eastern bank. They also left during the Indian excitement of 1832, returning to New Jersey, their native State. After the Black Hawk war, Allen came again to his chosen location. He was a rather singular character, although intelligent and well educated and sociable. Although he resided here until his death in 1879, except a number of years in Texas, he passed a sort of hermit life, scarcely ever appearing in town or in public except on circus days, when he was sure to be present, with

a smiling, happy countenance. At these shows he would take his seat early, rest his hands and chin on the top of his cane, and take in everything with the utmost eagerness. Indeed, it is said that one of his chief objections to removing further west was the fact that he would in a great measure be deprived of the privilege of attending circus shows. He had a wife and five children, the latter of whom are all living in Texas, mostly in a very paltry style. After the loss of his wife Mr. Norcross partially "kept back," and although affable with visitors, kept himself singularly dissociated from the outside world. His death was the result of injuries received in a runaway, and his remains lie buried in the Murray graveyard.

After his death there were found in his possession Government bonds to the amount of \$13,000, concealed in a stack of sugar buckets in the smoke-house. To the different classes of these bonds he had a unique system of indexing. He was in the habit of keeping his currency sealed in fruit-cans, and buried in the ground a hundred yards from the house. In his hermit leisure he contracted many peculiar habits.

William Norcross removed to Texas in 1844.

Jacob Miller settled in Rock Creek Township in 1832, and Henry Miller shortly afterward. They were not so badly frightened by Indian rumors as were their predecessors, and "held their fort" during the Black Hawk war. Henry, who settled on the old Knox clearing, lived in this county until his death, in Lancaster Township, June 25, 1882, at the age of eighty years. Jacob, who settled some distance below, is not now living.

Between the above date and 1840 there came to this county the following: James and Robert Harvey, who remained residents here during their life; Adam Miller, deceased;

David Bennett, who died in Allen County; Charles R. Bennett, also deceased; Thomas W. Van Horn, who died in Des Moines, Iowa; Solomon Johnson, who died in Rock Creek Township; Solomon Sparks, Sr., now deceased; Mason Powell, who came from North Carolina, and is not now living; Isaac Covert, who was the first sheriff, and served in that capacity three terms altogether, died many years ago; Wm. H. J. Covert, living in Bluffton; Adnah Hall, deceased; Bowen Hale, still living; R. C. Bennett, Sr., deceased; James Scott; Wm. P. Davis; Wm. H. Parmelee, who lived on a farm near Bluffton, held many offices in early days, sold the farm mentioned, and removed to Chester Township, where he died; Wm. McDowell (pronounced McDole), deceased; Abraham McDowell; Abram W. Johnson, who arrived August 24, 1837, coming by compass from Fort Wayne, and now resides a mile west of Bluffton; Dick McIntyre, who settled in Jackson Township in 1838, and is still living; Chads Chalfant, who also came to the county in 1838, and died February 10, 1883, aged about eighty-one years; John Swett, or Sweat; Thomas T. Smith, deceased; William Prillaman, deceased, county commissioner for a number of terms, and also member of the Legislature; Solomon Kemp, deceased; James Gerry Smith; Nun McIntyre, who was born in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1809, came to this county in 1836, was in the public affairs of the county, and died January 8, 1881; Benjamin Mendenhall, a fine man, and an excellent hunter, died in this county; David Snyder; William Craig, toll-gate keeper, died at Ossian, this county; Daniel Miller, killed by a horse thief; Michael Miller, who came in the fall of 1837, was three times sheriff, and is still living in Bluffton; Nathaniel Batson, afterward county commissioner, died in this county; Henry McCullick,

from West Virginia, located in Chester Township February 11, 1835, is deceased; Amos Townsend, from Ohio, still living in Bluffton; Thomas Wallace, from North Ireland, died in Bluffton; William Stobie, a Scotchman; James Guthrie; Almon Case; William Barton; Benjamin Starr and others.

Almon Case, a Yankee of good sense and ready wit, arrived about 1836, first taking up his abode in a hollow sycamore log, which was lying near where George McFadden's clothing store now stands, and lived in it three weeks, having the ague. He was the first hotel keeper in Bluffton, contractor for the present court-house, etc., and frequent allusion is therefore made to him in the course of this history. He died at Vera Cruz, this county, in 1875.

William Barton, mentioned above, came also from New England (Vermont), in 1836, and, like Mr. Case, also took up his residence in a hollow sycamore tree, in Rock Creek Township, on a farm since occupied by Samuel McAfee. Mr. Barton, although six feet and three inches tall, managed, on retiring to his couch for the night in the hollow tree, to extend himself horizontally at full length, by inserting his feet in the hollow of a root. He removed to Allen County in 1839, where he died.

Benjamin Starr located about nine miles southwest of Bluffton in 1838, in the edge of Chester Township, and is still living there.

Some time prior to 1850 there settled here: John A. Dean, who came in 1840, aided in clearing the Dean farm, east of Bluffton, and died in 1867, aged seventy-two years; Gabriel and John Markley, both deceased; Elam Hooker; Joseph Logan; John M. Hoover, who came in 1842, and is still living in Bluffton; Lewis Linn, sheriff at one time, who died in Fort Wayne; L. L. Holmes, living at Portland, Indiana; Samuel Ogden, who died in

this county, besides many others, who, on account of their prominence in the public affairs in the county, will be noticed toward the conclusion of the political chapter, on a subsequent page.

BEGINNINGS.

The first white child born in Wells County was Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Miller, who became the wife of Jacob R. Harvey. She was born in 1835, and now lives at Murray, with her husband.

The first white child born in Bluffton was William Bluffton Miller, son of Michael Miller, the event taking place June 4, 1839. He is now living in Fort Wayne.

The first white female child born in Bluffton was Elizabeth, daughter of Almon Case. She became the wife of Charles M. Brown, and afterward of Dr. T. Horton. She was born the latter part of September, 1839, and is now deceased.

The first wedding in Wells County was that of Robert Simison to Miss Rebecca Davis, in February, 1837, at the residence of James Harvey. It was solemnized by Esquire Hood, of Fort Wayne, who was imported for the occasion. At that time there was no minister or justice of the peace within the borders of Wells County, or any other party having authority to tie the connubial knot. A fine old couple, still living, at Buena Vista, Indiana. Mr. Bowen Hale was married previous to this, but his marriage took place at Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hale was also the first merchant in the county, his store being on the "Ormon Perring" farm, near Murray.

The first mill in the county was built at Murray in 1837, by Jesse Gerhard. After many alterings and remodelings, it is still running.

The first mill at Bluffton was the present

Kenagy Bros. mill, built by Robert B. Turner some time in the '40s. It was at first a saw-mill, and a pair of burrs were afterward added for grinding grain. Previous to this, in 1836, a rude sort of hand-mill was constructed out of a "nigger-head" boulder, by George French, up the river in Adams County. It was turned by a crank.

Michael Miller brought the first barrel of flour into the county, in 1837.

The first sermon in the county was preached by Rev. Elijah Sutton, an old-school Baptist, at the house of David Bennett, across the river from Bluffton, in 1838. All the neighbors attended. Mr. Sutton died in 1845, at an advanced age, and his remains now slumber in the Murray graveyard.

The first sermon within the limits of Bluffton was delivered by Rev. George W. Bowers, of the Methodist church, under a spreading oak on the river bank at the foot Johnson street. Mr. Bowers is yet living in an adjoining county.

The first school in the county was taught by Jesse B. McGrew, in 1837, on the farm of Adam Miller, up the river from Bluffton.

The first physician was Dr. William Fellows, next John Riddile, and third C. T. Melsheimer, who is still practicing here.

The first marriage license was issued December 7, 1837, to John McCullick and Lucinda Thompson, who five days afterward were married by J. P. Brown, Esq.

The first minister's license on record was that of Rev. Elijah Sutton, filed in 1838.

The first election was in 1836, when the county cast ten or twelve votes.

The first trial before a justice of the peace was before Benj. Brown, September 2, 1837. The case was *The State of Indiana vs. Simon Miller*, charged with assault and battery against the person of Elam Hooker. The defendant was found guilty, and fined one

dollar, for the use of the seminary fund of Wells County.

The second lawsuit before a justice occurred in 1837, when Thomas W. Van Horn was called upon to decide which of two traps caught the wolf. Particulars given on a subsequent page.

First lawsuit in the circuit court occurred in 1838, when "Andy" Ferguson was tried for assault and battery upon the person of John Mace. David Bennett prosecuted the case, vigorously, and Moses Jenkinson, subsequently of Fort Wayne, defended. To defend Ferguson the latter footed it all the way from Geneva, Indiana; but when Ferguson ascertained that he was not licensed to practice law he was ungrateful enough to refuse paying him. So poor Jenkinson went footing it alone through the mud back to his home penniless.

The first meetings of the county commissioners were held at R. C. Bennett's cabin, near the present site of the Deam brick mansion.

The first circuit court met at the same cabin, October 19, 1837, Hon. Charles W. Ewing presiding. No business being on hand, the court adjourned one day. Ewing finally ended his life by suicide.

First court-house and jail were built in 1838.

First postoffice was a mile from Murray, and Bowen Hale was the postmaster. The first three or four months yielded him just 25 cents.

OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC.

During the great fourth of July celebration of 1872 at Studabaker's Grove, near Bluffton, where ten thousand people assembled to hear the "eagle screech" and to have a good time generally, the old settlers had a picnic, and as their speeches on that occasion

were rich with allusions to early times, we cannot refrain from giving a condensed account of them.

Henry Miller being first called upon, gave a rather gloomy account of the state of the country when he settled here, he being one of the first white men in the county. Bread-stuff for a family of ten children was procured at a distance of 100 miles from his home, and had to be ferried across the Wabash in canoes. The county was so sparsely settled that but six or seven could be collected to raise a cabin. He had gone seven miles, and with six other men raised a cabin, and reached home before night. Mr. Miller suggested that all the old settlers write their experiences in full, and on some appointed day place their manuscripts in the hands of some one in Bluffton, to be compiled into a complete history of the county.

William Stobie related a little affair that occurred at the first preaching in the county. A fellow with a load of deer-skins rode up to the door during the services, and called out, "Is Lewis Linn here?" Lewis went out, examined and assorted the skins, and returned to his seat in church. The first marriage, which was also a very laughable affair, was also described by Mr. Stobie.

David Bennett, although his voice was somewhat affected by nervousness, greatly interested the audience and drew their sympathy. Said he, "I well remember the first Fourth of July celebration I attended in this county. It was thirty-seven years ago. For mnsic we had our three babies; my wife was the 'delegation,' and I was the 'chief marshal.'"

Judge Garton related the particulars of his settling in 1842 where he now [1872] lives. It was then an unbroken wilderness, and they "had to roll up sleeves and breeches and clear up the country." They arranged a mor-

tar in which to pound corn, and even then could not get it fit for use until the coarser portion was sorted out. Buckwheat was ground in coffee-mills.

L. L. Holmes being called upon, stated that he had just arrived, and felt like the young attorney who arose once at a railroad celebration, and as he said "Ladies and gentlemen," the wind carried away beyond recovery the nice little speech he had written out for the occasion. He was utterly non-plussed. Mr. Holmes, however, did make an interesting speech. When he came here the only mill in this section of the country was in Adams County. The customers furnished the power with the horses they brought. He and a neighbor once shelled each a bushel of corn and went to the mill, where there were twenty men awaiting their turn, and the most of them had to wait a day or two. Disgusted with that slow machine, he went next time to Richmond for a load of provisions. Returning he struck into a good track near Fort Recovery, but it did not continue very good, for at night he could look back and see the smoke from the cabin he had left in the morning. He went back and staid over night. Second night, ditto.

In those early days taxes were light, being only \$2.50 on a quarter section of land. If there were thorns in pioneer life, there were also roses. Mr. Holmes became enthusiastic over the genuine happiness and independence which lightened the burdens and hardships of the early settlers.

Thomas Wallace made a longer speech, replete with reminiscences of early days, and contrasting the past with the present. He could look around and see those who had gone with him to Muncie and other places for provisions, on trips occupying two weeks, with eight men and eight yoke of oxen, and four wagons, four men going in advance to

ent out a road. He also gave an account of the organization of the first Sunday-school in the county, in Rock Creek Township, by a Yankee from New York.

Rev. W. M. Donaldson delivered a fine speech. He came to the county twenty-five years previously on horseback, a large portion of the way from Fort Wayne to Bluffton through water so deep that he had to hold his feet as high as he could. He was "particularly attracted by the appearance of the people—liked their countenances so well that he concluded to settle here, and he never had had occasion to regret it." He spoke of the manifestations of joy, peace and hospitality which attended the pioneer life. The frontiersman was always glad to see strangers come and enjoy conversations at his fireside. He maintained that the necessities which brought cook, children and strangers all together were more conducive to genuine hospitality than those which consign the visitor to a parlor remote from those whose company he fain would enjoy, surrounded by the formalities of latter-day etiquette.

Wilson M. Bulger added similar testimony.

The principal event of the day—of the celebration of July 4, 1872—was an historical address prepared and delivered by Hon. Newton Burwell, and published in the Bluffton papers, from which we glean many items of interest for this work.

OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

September 10, 1879, the "Wells County Pioneer Association" was organized at Bluffton, and at the same meeting the members made arrangements to visit the State Fair at Indianapolis, as the managers of that exhibition had promised free passes on the railroads to and from the fair, to all persons over seventy years of age who had resided in the

State forty years or more. N. Kellogg was elected president; Michael Karns, treasurer, and J. C. Silver, secretary. The movement resulted in seventeen residents of Wells County visiting the fair who answered to the above description.

September 20, same year, old settlers enjoyed a celebration in Lancaster Township, near Oakland; it was a basket picnic. Prominent speakers were present, and there was a general love-feast over old reminiscences.

The first old settlers' picnic and celebration was held July 4, 1859; the fourth, July 4, 1872, and the fifth, July 4, 1879. On each of these occasions Hon. Newton Burwell delivered the address.

The organization above referred to was unfortunately suffered to go down. Had they kept up sufficiently long to carry out Mr. Henry Miller's suggestion seven years previously, namely, to write out their reminiscences of early days, how it would lighten the labors of the present and future historians, and render their work more complete and satisfactory. What is there that creates so much pleasure, at so little expense, as exchange of memories of long by-gone days? What do the aged residents more enjoy, or are more apt to engage in, than conversation about old times? Doubtless many more of these experiences and scenes would have long since been committed to paper, could the living pioneers have had a scribe at their side, to write down the thoughts as they came up in their memory. It is an almost impossible task, for even those somewhat used to writing, to carry a recollection in the memory definitely until they can find an opportunity to write it out satisfactorily.

About all the reminiscences we have collected for this volume are classified in their proper places; we give a few here for which we can not find a more appropriate place.

THE CHASE.

Pioneer life naturally develops great hunters. Conspicuous among such in the early epoch of Wells County were Isaac Covert, "Wils." Bulger and others. Messrs. Covert and Miller indulged in the luxury of killing she bears and robbing them of their cubs. On one occasion, in 1836, Messrs. Covert and Isaac Lewallen were trapping near Samuel Crum's farm in Rock Creek Township, and discovered that an otter had burrowed itself in the bank of the river. They dug it out, but it sprang into the stream. They had no gun, and Covert, a large and plucky man, fearing that he would lose the object for which he had labored, jumped in after it. A combat ensued, in which Covert came out victorious, though with several wounds. He killed the otter by choking and drowning. Lewallen, like the lady of story, stood off and participated in the conflict by "hurrahing for our side."

Mr. Covert trapped many wolves through the country, which he lashed into slavery, tied in bark in their mouths, strapped them on his back and brought them to market. But the unaided efforts of all the hunters were not sufficient to extirpate the howling fraternity, and the board of commissioners, with an eye to wool-growing, offered, in January, 1839, a premium of \$1 for every wolf scalp brought them. This encouraged the slaughtering business and made the trade lively. Covert then had plenty of help; yet the board, in March, 1840, increased the premium to \$2. In a short time, however, they rescinded this order, as they ascertained that an old gentleman southwest of Bluffton had domesticated a lot of she-wolves and at divers times sold scalps of their young to them.

As late as the spring of 1886 a circular fox hunt was made in the county, resulting in the slaughter of several foxes.

"Wils." Bulger, the "Davy Crockett" of Indiana, the "Killbuck of the Wilderness," is noted as being one of the greatest hunters of his day, killing as high as sixty-four deer in one season! Of course, his anecdotes of the chase are numerous and interesting, and he has not a reputation for exaggerating. In calling a turkey, and in the imitation of the tones, etc., of many other animals, he could deceive the most practiced disciple of Nimrod. Many a laugh has he created at the expense of rival hunters. He is now too aged and feeble to keep up his old-time custom, and is living a quiet life at his home near the foot of Main street, Bluffton.

Now, reader, should we drop the sketch of Mr. Bulger here, your impression of him might be that of the traditional rough, illiterate and somewhat immoral frontiersman; but, for a rarity, there is probably no more intelligent, refined man in Bluffton than this same Wilson M. Bulger, as was demonstrated about twelve years ago in a theological debate on Universalism between him and a Methodist named Samuel Kenagy. We cannot give a history of the rise and progress of the controversy here; but suffice it to say that our hero manifested a sweetness of temper throughout that discussion seldom if ever witnessed among professional debaters and doctrinal divines themselves. That discussion was carried on through the Bluffton newspapers, and the articles have been published in the form of a duodecimo book of about 200 pages. He says he has sold 800 copies in Bluffton and vicinity.

WILD WOMAN.

In pioneer times, between 1840 and 1850, there was occasionally seen in the woods east of Bluffton, one season, a woman who was living in a wild state. She obtained her subsistence mainly by robbing gardens and

fields, and once in a while she would venture up to a pioneer's cabin and beg for something; but before anything definite was ascertained concerning her history, Mr. Abram W. Johnson and his wife were out one day, and, perceiving a peculiar, rank, cadaverous odor, they followed the direction indicated and soon found the corpse of the strange woman in a hollow log. It is supposed that she had escaped from an asylum or other place in the East, in a freak of insanity.

POSTAGE THEN AND NOW.

At that age of the country when postage on a letter for 500 miles was $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and the wages for a day's work was not much more than that, Benjamin Starr, who had

located about nine miles south of Bluffton, in the edge of Chester Township, came to town one fine morning and found that there was a letter in the postoffice awaiting him, with the postage due on the same. It was from his old home in the East, and, being anxious to get it, and not having any money with him, he was in trouble. But 'Squire Hale gave him the job of cleaning out a well for him, which occupied the rest of the day, and he was then enabled to pay the postage. At the present day the average wages per day is about \$1.50, while postage on a letter weighing an ounce or under to any part of the United States, even to the Pacific coast, is only two cents—equal to only six or eight minutes' work.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

THE SUBDIVISION of the Northwest Territory into five States has already been described in the first portion of this volume, we need here go no further back than the organization of Wayne County in 1796, under the first form of our Territorial government, when that county comprised about twenty-six of the present counties in Ohio (being the northwest quarter of the State), the whole of the southern peninsula of Michigan, and the northern part of Indiana, including Wells County. Detroit was then the county seat, and is still the county seat of Wayne County. Subdivision of this territory into smaller counties went on as population increased, State boundaries were defined, etc., until we come to the date 1835, when Wells and Adams counties were set off from Allen County.

During the session, that year, of the Indiana Legislature, Colonel John Vawter, of Jennings County, Chairman of the House Committee on New Counties, introduced a

bill for an act to "lay out all the unorganized territory to which the Indian title had been extinguished in the State into a suitable number of counties." This was approved February 7, 1835. The counties laid out under this act were Wells, Jay, DeKalb, Steuben, Whitley, Kosciusko, Fulton, Marshall, Stark, Pulaski, Jasper, Newton and Porter. Wells County was named in honor of Captain William H. Wells, who had been killed in the massacre at Fort Dearborn, Chicago, in 1812, by the Indians.

An act was passed, and approved February 2, 1837, to organize the county May 1 following, appointing David Bennett, sheriff, to notify the electors to meet at the house of Robert C. Bennett, to elect three commissioners, and also appointing five commissioners, non-residents, to locate the county seat. As these five commissioners for some cause failed to meet, a special act of the Legislature was passed, and approved January 20, 1838, appointing Zachariah Smith, of Adams County, Christopher Hanna, of Jay County, Champion Helvey, of Huntington County, William Kizer, of Randolph County, and John Rogers, of Grant County, commissioners to locate the permanent seat of justice for

Wells County. Having been duly notified by Isaac Covert, by this time elected sheriff, of their appointment, four of them came, the absent member being Zachariah Smith. The contestants for the county seat of government were Bluffton and Murray, and at first the four commissioners were evenly divided between the two points. Their first vote was taken about dusk in the evening. Mr. Abraham Studabaker, whose land lay at Bluffton, conferred with Daniel Miller, of Adams County, who also owned property near Bluffton, and was present at the county seat contest. The result of the deliberation was that Miller should immediately post off on horseback to Adams County, and fetch in Smith, the absentee, in time for the final vote in the morning. It was very cold; ten inches of snow were on the ground; not a single road had been cut; and there were only traces through the timber. He followed the Wabash fourteen miles, to the residence of Peter Studabaker, where he obtained a fresh horse, and on he pushed twenty miles more to the St. Mary's River, near the State line, where he found his man, at three o'clock in the morning. Returning with him, they again obtained fresh horses at Peter Studabaker's, and reached Bluffton before the commissioners met in the morning, after the messenger had traveled nearly seventy miles, mostly during the night, through a deep, unbroken snow and severe cold. The vote thus procured cast the die in favor of Bluffton. One historian says that the victory was won for Bluffton by the \$270 cash which Messrs. Bennett and Studabaker donated.

The report of the commissioners reads thus: "We met at the house of Robert C. Bennett, in said county of Wells, on the first Monday of March, 1838, and have selected the west half of the northeast quarter of section 4, township 26, range 12, for the site for

the seat of justice of Wells County, which land was donated by Abram Studabaker with a reserve of two choice lots. He also donated 31.90 acres off the east end of the south half of the southwest quarter of section 33, town 27, range 12 east. Robert C. Bennett donates the southeast fraction of the northeast quarter of section 4, town 26, range 12 east, with a reserve of two and one-half acres in the northeast corner. Studabaker and Bennett also donated \$270 in cash.

"Signed, March 9, 1838, Christopher Hanna, John Rogers, William Kizer, Zachariah Smith, Locating Commissioners."

But county government did not wait for the locating commissioners to do their duty. Long before the county seat was located the citizens, in June, 1837, proceeded to elect their county board of three commissioners, namely, Solomon Johnson, James Scott and R. C. Bennett, Sr., for three, two and one years, in the order named. At this election six or seven non-resident land-holders living in Ohio were permitted to vote, especially as they intended soon to move into the county, among them being Dr. George T. Riddle, Adam Hatfield and John Greer.

The first acts of these commissioners, as condensed from their journal, were as follows:

The Board met Friday, July 21, 1837, at the house of R. C. Bennett, in accordance with the above recited act, and produced the certificates of the sheriff that they had been duly elected and qualified. David Bennett produced his commission appointing him sheriff (signed by Governor Noble) until the next annual election. Bowen Hale also produced a similar document appointing him clerk of Wells County. Both were certified to as having taken the oath as required by law. This being done, the Board was organized, with Solomon Johnson as president.

1. Ordered that W. H. Parmelee be

appointed agent of the three per cent. fund donated to the county by the State for roads and bridges. He accepted and gave bond.

2. That Adnah Hall be appointed treasurer of Wells County. He also accepted, and gave bond in the sum of \$3,000.

3. That David Whitman be appointed assessor and collector of revenues for the county. His bond was fixed at \$800.

That for county purposes there be levied 18 cents on each \$100 valuation, and 50 cents on each poll.

For several years taxes were often settled for by a promissory note, endorsed by two good men. Adnah Hall, Treasurer, had a little book of blank notes printed and bound for the purpose, with his name as payee. For the first three years after the organization of the county it is said that the treasurer kept his office in his jacket pocket, but was never corrupted or approached with a bribe while discharging his trust. The fees of the office for a while necessarily exceeded the funds in the treasury, owing to the condition of things.

As at that time the Government lands were exempt from taxation five years after entry, there were but three tracts of land in the county subject to taxation. The first tax duplicate was made out on a single sheet of paper.

The fifth order made by the board next day was that Wells County be divided into two election districts, by a line commencing on the southern boundary of the county and running north between what is now Chester and Nottingham townships, and Harrison and Liberty townships; thence east two miles between Harrison and Lancaster townships; thence north to the county line. The territory on the east of this line was designated as Harrison Township, and that on the west as Rock Creek Township.

Since then the townships have been set off as follows: Jackson, September 4, 1837; Jefferson, March 3, 1840; Nottingham, January 4, 1841; Chester and Lancaster, March 1, 1841; Liberty, June 8, 1841, and Union, June 7, 1847, immediately after the land there came into market subsequent to the extinguishment of the Indian title. Jackson has been called the "lost township," because the counties around it happened to be so formed that it could not be attached to any one of them without forming a geographical projection.

At the above session of the board Bowen Hale was granted a license for one year, for the sum of \$5, to retail merchandise and foreign groceries "not the product of the State or of the United States."

September 4, 1837, the board met, and "on motion took their seats." Bowen Hale was allowed \$56 for books for the use of the office, and other stationery, namely, ink-stands, ink powder, etc.

John Casebeer was appointed the first surveyor, and the first road established in the county was that part of the State road leading from Greenville, Ohio, to Marion, Indiana. The expense of location through Wells County was \$56.62½. The next located in the county was the Fort Recovery and Huntington road, at the November session, 1837. For the opening of this road the board appropriated \$1,000 of the three per cent. fund.

David Bennett was paid \$32.50 in full for his services as sheriff; Solomon Johnson, \$8 for his services as commissioner; David Whitman, \$6.56 for his services as "assessor of the revenue" of Wells County for 1837. John Casebeer was appointed assessor for 1838, and Thomas T. Smith school commissioner—the first in the county.

In August, 1837, an election was held,

when Isaac Covert was chosen sheriff, and James R. Greer associate judge.

March 9, 1838, Mr. Greer was appointed county agent, and gave bond in the sum of \$5,000.

John Casebeer was allowed \$38, May 7 following, for surveying and platting the site of Bluffton. The recorded plat bears the date March 23, 1838.

In January, 1839, the commissioners offered a premium of \$1 for each wolf killed, the evidence of killing being the presentation of a fresh scalp. Adam Hatfield presented the first one the following May.

At the close of this year Adnah Hall, Treasurer, made his report, covering the period from November 6, 1838, to November 6, 1839, which showed that there had been received into the treasury from all sources the sum of \$1,419.40. His commission was \$19.43; notes, \$301. Total assets of the

county, \$1,701.41. This was principally derived from fines and sales of lots.

At the November session, 1839, Bowen Hale, Clerk, reported that he had procured for the county a metallic seal, and the following description of the design was ordered to be placed on the minutes: "A sheaf of wheat is the main design; a plane, a rake, a pitchfork; surrounded by the following words, to wit: 'Commissioners of Wells County.'" Prior to this date a scrawl seal had been used in official business.

The first acts of the commissioners concerning the sale of lots, etc., in Bluffton, will be found under the head of Bluffton, and those concerning the first court-house and jail, under those heads respectively, in the latter portion of this work.

The present status of the county is given under the head of "Census," on a subsequent page.



POLITICAL AND OFFICIAL.

GENERAL observations concerning the great presidential campaigns, as affecting the political sentiment of this portion of Indiana, are given in the political chapter of the history of Adams County, in this work. We here append a few miscellaneous items of interest, prefatory to the election returns of this county on the following pages.

The votes on the school law, and the various amendments to the State Constitution, referred to in these returns, generally excited but little popular interest. The vote in 1851, on the Constitution, was on its adoption, and at the same time a very decisive vote was given for the "exclusion of negroes from the State and their colonization"—588 to 97. Even on this point the excitement was not great, as public sentiment was so uniform.

From the old files of the Bluffton papers, we notice that apparently modern questions

were before the public as early as 1848-'50, one column in the *Republican Bugle*, for instance, being headed "Capital vs. Labor;" another article headed, "News from South Carolina favoring Secession;" another, "Land Monopoly," etc. The Bluffton Lyceum, in the winter of 1848-'49, debated whether the dissolution of the States under any circumstances would be proper, etc. Hon. T. W. Borden, representing this district in Congress, delivered a speech there on the "necessity of limiting the amount of land which one should own."

The following little incident was characteristic of pioneer times: During the presidential campaign of 1856, when the Republican party was running their first candidate, John C. Fremont, for President, against James Buchanan, William A. Garver, Democratic candidate for Congressman from this district, came into Bluffton afoot, dusty, shabby and weary, on his electioneering tour. John P. Greer, a resident lawyer, concluded to meet him in a public debate and "flax him out," which appeared to be as easy as "rolling off a log." Garver accepted the challenge, and

the event proved that he was an invincible "singe-cat," far too strong for Greer. The occasion was an exciting one. Every citizen, being interested in the attack on the unrepresentable, dust-begrimed denizen of the Indiana forests, turned out to see what they thought would be a very unequal contest; and "unequal," indeed, it turned out to be, but, to the astonishment of all, the heaviest weight was on the other side.

In the report for 1874 we have James P. Hale indicated as "Temperance-Democrat-Republican." This curious feature may be accounted for by the temperance "ernsade," headed by Newton Burwell and others. In the sketch of Mr. Burwell, elsewhere, will be found a brief account of his movement. [See also "Temperance," under head "Miscellaneous".] The temperance people, who concluded it was time to be *doing* something, and something that was effectual, undertook that year to reform each party "within itself"; and as the Democrats were in so great majority that a nomination by them was equivalent to an election, the "ernsaders" undertook to reform their ticket for that year. Mr. Hale, who was first placed on the ticket for county surveyor, joined the temperance movement, and thus lost his place on that ticket, the Democrats nominating Mr. Rhodes in his place; then the Republican and temperance people fused, uniting on Mr. Hale, with the result as there given.

Very few independent candidates have run for office in Wells County, as party nominations came into vogue throughout the Northern States previous to the settlement and organization of this county, and have been the system ever since. The county being largely Democratic, and the members of that party being famous for pulling well together, very few of them have felt at liberty to set themselves up as independent candidates, and,

of course, no member of any other party would have any object in becoming an independent candidate. In those districts where the Republicans have a heavy majority, there are generally many independent candidates.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

1837.—Solomon Johnson, James Scott, Robert C. Bennett.

1838-'39-'40.—Solomon Johnson, James Scott, John Higgins.

1841.—William Prillaman, James Wright, Amos Townsend.

1842.—William Prillaman, James Wright, Thomas T. Smith.

1843-'44.—James Wright, Samuel Decker, Levi Young.

1845.—James Wright, Levi Young, William Studabaker.

1846-'47.—Levi Young, William Studabaker, Nathaniel Batson.

1848.—William Studabaker, Nathaniel Batson, Henry Miller.

1849.—William Studabaker, Henry Miller, James Bell.

1850.—Henry Miller, James Bell, John A. Deam.

1851.—James Bell, John A. Deam, James Fulton.

1852.—John A. Deam, James Fulton, James Dailey.

1853.—James Fulton, William Kirkwood, James Dailey.

1854.—William Kirkwood, William Studabaker, John Ogden.

1855.—William Studabaker, John Ogden, James Bell.

1856-'57.—John Ogden, James Bell, Gabriel H. King.

1858-'59.—John Ogden, Samuel B. Arnold, William Linn.

1860.—Sammel B. Arnold, William Linn, Leonard S. Walker.

1861.—William Linn, Leonard S. Walker, Joseph Meredith.

1862.—Leonard S. Walker, Joseph Meredith, John W. Davenport.

1863-'64.—Leonard S. Walker, John W. Davenport, Alexander Lee.

1865.—Leonard S. Walker, Alexander Lee, Bowen Hale.

1866.—Alexander Lee, Bowen Hale, Jacob Farling.

1867.—Bowen Hale, Jacob Farling, Benjamin Lowry.

1868-'69.—Jacob Farling, Benjamin Lowry, Lewis Prillaman.

1870.—Lewis Prillaman, William W. Smith, Burket M. Elkins.

1871.—Burket M. Elkins, M. C. Blue, I. J. Covault.

1872.—Burket M. Elkins, Emanuel Popejoy, Leonard S. Walker.

1873.—Leonard S. Walker, William Kirkwood, Emanuel Popejoy.

1874.—Leonard S. Walker, William Kirkwood, Peter Studabaker.

1875.—William Kirkwood, Peter Studabaker, Samuel L. Riddile.

1876-'77.—Peter Studabaker, Samuel L. Riddile, J. D. Goodin.

1878.—Peter Studabaker, J. D. Goodin, John Sowards.

1879.—Peter Studabaker, John Sowards, Sylvester Lounsbury.

1880-'81.—Peter Studabaker, Sylvester Lounsbury, Ephraim M. Middaugh.

1882-'83.—Peter Studabaker, Ephraim M. Middaugh, George L. Warner.

1884.—George L. Warner, William H. Rupright, Isaac Fishbaugh.

1885-'86.—William H. Rupright, Isaac Fishbaugh, William Carner.

December of each of the years above mentioned. Hence the last mentioned above are in office until December, 1887.

AUDITORS.

Bowen Hale, 1837-'41; Lewis S. Grove, 1841-'50; James Dailey, 1850-'59; John McFadden, 1859-'63; Theodore Horton, 1863-'67; Sammel M. Dailey, 1867-'71; Michael C. Blue, 1871-'75; George E. Gardiner, 1875-'79; Elmore Y. Sturgis, 1879-'83; Naaman T. Miller, 1883.

TREASURERS.

Adnah Hall, 1837-'48; Henry Courtney, 1848-'50; William H. Deam, 1850-'55; John Wandle, 1855-'59; Peter Studabaker, 1859-'62; Elijah A. Horton, 1862-'64; Jacob V. Geary, 1864-'66; William H. Deam, 1866-'70; John Ogden, 1870-'74; Lemuel Bachelor, 1874-'78; Lawson Popejoy, 1878-'82; James P. Deam, 1882-'86; John E. Sturgis, 1886.

CLERKS.

Bowen Hale, 1837-'55; George McDowell, 1855-'59; Thomas L. Wisner, 1859-'67; James R. McCleery, 1867; William J. Craig, 1875-'83; J. H. Ormsby, 1883.

RECORDERS.

Bowen Hale, 1837-'51; Wilson M. Bulger, 1851-'59; Sammel M. Dailey, 1859-'63; Wilson M. Bulger, 1863-'71; James R. Bennett, 1871; David E. Bulger, 1879; E. B. McDowell, 1882-'87; John G. Banngardner, 1887.

SURVEYORS.

John Casebeer, 1837; Sylvanns Church, ———; Sammel G. Upton, 1853; George P. Mann, 1853-'57; Elijah A. Horton, 1857-'62; James A. Gavin, 1862-'67; Michael C. Blue, 1867-'71; Finley H. Rhodes, 1871-'73; James P. Hale, 1873-'77; John E. Beil,

NOTE.—The new board held their first session in

1877-'83; T. W. Barton, 1883-'87; Gabriel T. Markley, 1887.

SHERIFFS.

David Bennett, 1837; Isaac Covert, 1837-'41; Lewis Linn, 1841-'43; Isaac Covert, 1843-'45; Lewis Linn, 1845-'47; Isaac Covert, 1847-'49; Amza White, 1849-'53; Michael Miller, 1853-'57; Evan H. Phillips, 1857-'59; Michael Miller, 1859-'61; Nathaniel De Haven, 1861-'65; Mannel Chalfant, 1865-'67; Isaiah J. Covault, 1867-'69; Manuel Chalfant, 1869-'71; Isaiah J. Covault, 1871-'73; William W. Wisell, 1873; James B. Plessinger, 1877-'81; M. M. Justus, 1881-'85; Henry Kirkwood, 1885-

JUDGES OF PROBATE.

Thomas Wallace, W. H. Parmelee, Nun McIntyre and Bowen Hale. These served in the order named, from the organization of the county until about 1851, when, under the new State Constitution, the probate business was merged into the circuit court.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES.

Besides the many old settlers noticed in a previous chapter, many will query what has become of the old-time candidates for office. We therefore append some items in answer to their inquiry.

Amza White, elected sheriff in 1848, died many years ago. His widow and children are still living in Bluffton.

Joshua K. Randall, candidate for Representative in 1848, lives six miles northeast of Bluffton, on a farm.

James Bell, county commissioner 1849-'51, is station agent at Keystone.

James L. Warden, prosecuting attorney in 1851, afterward circuit and supreme judge, was an able and honorable jurist. He died at Fort Wayne, when he was judge of the Superior Court of Allen County.

Thomas L. Wisner, who has been in office much of his life, is still living, in Bluffton.

Ellison Covert resides at Ossian.

Nun McIntyre and Joseph A. Williams are not living.

Joseph Gorrell is still living, at Ossian.

James Fulton died a few years ago.

John Ogden is still alive, in Bluffton.

William A. Dean lost a great deal of property here, but is now doing well in Wichita, Kansas.

William Kirkwood, father of the present sheriff, lives south of Bluffton ten or twelve miles.

George P. Mann, surveyor, died many years ago.

George T. Riddile: see medical chapter.

John Wandle, Sylvanus Church and Samuel Decker have been dead many years.

Lewis Prillaman moved to his farm three miles above Bluffton, where he now resides.

Wilson M. Bulger, David Peppard, Nelson Kellogg and Michael Miller are living in Bluffton, retired from the activities of a business life.

David Truesdale lives five miles north of Bluffton.

James Dailey, father of Hon. Joseph S. Dailey, is still living, northeast of Bluffton.

Samuel B. Arnold, of Jackson Township, and George McDowell, are deceased.

Henry Prillaman died many years ago.

Evan H. Phillips, R. C. Bennett, Jr., Herod S. True, Elijah A. Horton and Mahlon Elwell are all deceased.

Gabriel H. King is living at La Gro.

Henry Thoma is a furniture dealer in Bluffton.

James Burwell: see chapter on the Bar.

John R. Coffroth is a prominent lawyer in Lafayette, Indiana.



PATRIOTISM.

NOT only want of space, but also a distaste for repetitions, fulsome flattery and cheap praise for the patriotism of the Wells County soldiery, forbids us to indulge in such glittering generalities here, and we proceed at once to facts and figures.

The first wave of sound from the tumbling walls of Fort Sumter reverberated from the solid wall of the yeomanry of Wells County, bearing upon its crest the following sixteen patriots, the first to enlist from the county, without waiting for hortatory speeches, bounties, or what else might first turn up: W. W. Angel, Saml. M. Karns, Dwight Klinck, Saml. D. Silver, Philip W. Silver, Jacob V. Kenagy, John T. Cartwright, James A. Starbuck, George M. Burwell, Andrew J. Barlow, Thomas J. Barlow, James A. Bounds, John C. Campbell, Isaac H. Lefever, Robert J. Rogers, Isaac P. Wilmington.

Uriah Todd, a resident of the county, enlisted from Ohio at the same time.

There being no railroad in the county, the above named patriots, recruited by the first on the list, went in large wagons to Fort Wayne the next day after Sumter was bombarded, and took the cars for Indianapolis, the place of rendezvous. They were placed in the Twelfth Regiment.

At this point the imagination is impatient to cast aside and repress the external noise and rush of material things, and hover, charmed, over the motherly significance of every little convenience and comfort furnished the son of war as he goes forth to distant lands, with the chances against his ever returning alive. And when in the terrible battle-field or in the tedious, lonesome, malodorous camp, he receives from home a bottle of preserves or a package of knick-knacks, done up in clean napkins as only feminine hands can do them, can he fix his mind, even for one moment, upon the real significance of these things, which is indeed more spiritual than material, without shedding a tear? And the longer the mind dwells upon it the longer

it wishes to dwell, until it collapses into a vacuity of thought from sheer exhaustion. Let him feel these things who can; others cannot be made to feel them with ever so much rhetoric. This secret of life-and-welfare preservation, perceived only by true mothers, is too sacred even for poetry, or for words in any form.

The Glass school district, two miles west of Ossian, comprising twenty-one families, sent fifty soldiers to the last war! Can any community in the Union beat that? Volunteering was very prompt throughout Wells County; and the two drafts that were made argues nothing against the patriotism of the people, for many good citizens maintain, with a fair show of reason, that all our soldiery should be raised by draft.

October 6, 1862, there were drafted from Jackson Township, 18; Chester, 19; Liberty, 2; Rock Creek, 6; Union, 17; Nottingham, 28, and Harrison, 19; total 109. From Jefferson and Lancaster Townships none were drafted. A second draft, for eleven men, took place in 1864. There was no open resistance to the draft, or to any other execution of military law, during the war; but we are informed that there existed in this county a society of Knights of the Golden Circle.

The bounty paid by the county for volunteers during the war footed up \$100,000; by the townships, \$26,650; total, \$126,650. Total paid by the county for the relief of soldiers' families, \$1,424; by the townships, \$10,000; total, \$11,424. Grand total of moneys raised and paid out, \$138,074.

In order to give some outline of the career of the Wells County soldiery in the battlefield, we subjoin a brief sketch of the engagements in which their respective regiments participated.

Some of the regiments—the Forty-seventh and Eighty-ninth Infantry and the Eleventh

and Thirteenth Cavalry—in which Wells County was represented, are sketched in the history of Adams County in this work, and we here give an account of the other principal ones.

TWELFTH REGIMENT.

For the one year service this regiment was organized from the surplus of companies that had reached Indianapolis in answer to the call for six regiments of three months troops, and was accepted for State service for one year, May 11, 1861, with John M. Wallace as Colonel, succeeded by William H. Link. A few Wells County men were in this regiment, and did duty in General Banks' Army of the Shenandoah. In May, 1862, after the expiration of their term, they were reorganized for the long term of three years, with Colonel Link continuing in command. They fought in Kentucky and followed Sherman in his grand march to the sea, and were mustered out June 8, 1865, only 270 strong.

TWENTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

This was organized at Madison July 15, 1861, for a three years' campaign, with Jefferson C. Davis (then a Captain in the regular army) as Colonel. It started out in Missouri, under General Fremont, to relieve Colonel Mulligan at Lexington; but before reaching him he had surrendered. It was then ordered through Southern Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and was with Sherman in the march to the sea, and back through the Carolinas to Washington, and thence home.

THE THIRTIETH REGIMENT

was organized at Fort Wayne, and mustered into service September 24, 1861, with Sion S. Bass as Colonel, succeeded, after his death at Paducah, Kentucky, from a severe wound, by Joseph B. Dodge. This regiment fought through Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and

Texas, in which last State it remained on duty long after the war closed, having suffered severely in privations and in losses of men.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGIMENT

was organized at Anderson September 16, 1861, with Asbury Steele as Colonel. Remaining in camp at Jeffersonville until November 15, and then at New Haven, Kentucky, for a month longer, it embarked on transports on the Ohio River below Louisville, with General Nelson's Division, and arriving at Cairo it was detached, and arrived at New Madrid, Missouri, March 3. There it was engaged in the siege until the place was evacuated March 14. The next morning, at Merriweather's Landing, fourteen miles below, it repelled an attack by the enemy. With a battery of two thirty-two-pounder siege guns it cut off the rebel retreat from Island No. 10, and this was the means of the subsequent capture of the whole garrison. Returning to New Madrid April 7, it remained there as a garrison until June 14, during which time it assisted in the capture of Fort Pillow. Thence it was taken by boat down the Mississippi River and up the White to Aberdeen, Arkansas, near which place it soon had a successful skirmish with the enemy. Remained at Helena, Arkansas, until the next spring, making frequent expeditions against the enemy, the most important of which was a successful two weeks' operation in clearing Yazoo Pass.

During the spring of 1863 it was engaged in constructing bridges near Vicksburg. May 1 it had a successful skirmish with the enemy at Port Gibson, capturing two field pieces and forty-nine prisoners, but lost forty-nine killed and wounded. On the 16th it participated in the battle of Champion Hills, where it captured a regiment, but lost seventy-nine men killed and wounded. Among the latter

was Lieutenant-Colonel Swain, from Wells County, who died from his wounds on the 17th of the next month. The regiment participated in the siege of Vicksburg until its surrender, then in the siege of Jackson, Mississippi; next in Louisiana under General Banks; then in Texas and back to New Orleans, and then home on a veteran furlough.

Returning to Texas, it fought the last battle of the war, May 12 and 13, 1865, at Palmetto Rancho, adjoining the old battle-field of Palo Alto, near the mouth of the Rio Grande. With a battery of six field pieces, 250 of the regiment drove 500 of the enemy, mounted, a distance of three miles in three hours. The Colonel, David Bransom, having received news of the surrender of Kirby Smith, the last one of the rebels holding out in the older States, gave the order to cease firing, with a peculiar, joyful fervency that is difficult to describe. But the firing could not cease, as our men were obliged to defend themselves for the moment, irrespective of defense of their country; for the enemy by this time got their gun in position and poured a destructive fire into the ranks of our men, compelling the main body to fall back. The Colonel ordered Companies B and E to remain toward the front as skirmishers to cover the retreat. These companies were soon surrounded and forced to surrender. The loss to the Thirty-fourth was eighty-two, in killed, wounded and prisoners. This scene was witnessed by hundreds of men perched in the rigging of eighty men of war and other shipping, as the hazy sun quietly settled down in a fading glumor behind the sandy hills on the western bank of the Rio Grande. It would be interesting to know what member of the Thirty-fourth Indiana—possibly a Wells County man—fired the last gun of the greatest war that ever drenched the earth in blood!

After this the regiment was ordered to various places in Texas, and finally, long after the war closed, was mustered out.

The officers in this regiment from Wells County were Major John L. Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel William Swaim, Major Harrison L. Deam, Captains William Wilming-ton and John Phipps, and Lieutenants George Harter and Andrew C. Fulton.

SEVENTY-FIFTH REGIMENT.

The companies composing this regiment of infantry were raised in the Eleventh Congressional District, the camp of rendezvous being at Wabash. They were mustered into service August 19, 1862, with John U. Pettit as Colonel, and comprised 1,036 men. Advancing to meet General Bragg's forces, it was ordered back; but soon afterward it gave chase to Morgan, the raider. Without crossing the Ohio River to the north, it was ordered to Murfreesboro. At this time it was a part of the "Indiana Brigade," which comprised also the Eighty-seventh, and the One Hundred and Thirty-First regiments. In June following the Seventy-fifth started toward Tallahoma, and was the first to enter the rebel works there. September 19 and 20 following, in the battle of Chickamanga, it lost seventeen killed and 107 wounded.

Remaining at Chattanooga some months, it next engaged in the noted battle at Missionary Ridge, November 25, losing five killed and seventeen wounded. The next summer it was engaged in the siege of Atlanta, until its evacuation, and the ensuing winter marched with Sherman to the sea, and through the Carolinas and Virginia to Washington, where it was mustered out of service.

Many men from Wells County were in this regiment, among them Captain Sanford R. Karns and Lieutenant James A. Starbuck.

THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH INDIANA INFANTRY,

in which nearly a full company of Wells County volunteers were organized, was mainly recruited from the Fourth Congressional District, rendezvousing at Fort Wayne. Mustered into service August 29, 1862, with George Humphrey as Colonel, it was soon ordered to the front near Louisville, Kentucky, to resist the approach of Kirby Smith. Next, under General Rousseau's command, it pursued General Bragg, engaging in the battle of Perryville, with considerable loss of numbers in killed and wounded. Subsequently it participated in the battle of Stone River, December, 1862, and January, 1863; remained in camp near Murfreesboro till June 24; engaged in severe skirmishes at Tallahoma, Hillsboro and Elk River; in the battle of Dug Gap, Georgia, repulsing the rebel General Polk; battles of Chickamanga, Lookout Mountain, and all the battles leading to the occupation of Atlanta, and on the grand march to the sea under Sherman, and so on with the main army on its return to the North, and was mustered out at Washington, June 7, 1865. This regiment did an immense amount of fighting and marching, spending very little time in camp.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST

Regiment of Indiana Infantry took more of Wells County's sons than did any other, and it was made up wholly from the Eleventh Congressional District. In it were Major Peter Studabaker, Dr. C. T. Melsheimer as Assistant Surgeon, Captain Andrew J. Barlow, Captain George Lindsey, Lieutenant William Miller, Lieutenant Simon Krewsen and others. The members of the One Hundred and First rendezvoused at Wabash in August, 1862, and were mustered into service September 7, with William Garver, of Noblesville, as Colonel. Their first duty in

the field was the defense of Covington, Kentucky, against the threatened attack by Kirby Smith. Next the regiment went in search of Bragg's forces, marching about to many a point, and then in pursuit of John Morgan for a week, in mud and rain, and was unsuccessful. Then it visited various points in Tennessee, engaging in skirmishes and other duties, with camp and headquarters at Murfreesboro. In March, 1863, our men (in the Second Brigade) were skirmishing around and beating up hidden rebels, and, happening upon Morgan with 3,700 men, repulsed him, with considerable loss. The One Hundred and First lost forty-three killed and wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Doan, of Marion, was in command.

On the 27th of April the regiment moved with its division to McMinnville, captured seventy prisoners, some stores, and destroyed the railroad in that vicinity. May 31 Colonel Garver resigned and Lieutenant-Colonel Doan assumed command. On the 24th of June the whole army made a forward movement, engaged in a successful contest at Hoover's Gap, and marched from place to place, and, after marching all one night, arrived at the field of Chickamauga on the morning of September 19. Here the One Hundred and First participated in one of the bloodiest encounters of the war, and, with others, was repulsed with fearful loss, namely thirteen killed, eighty-five wounded and sixteen missing.

After another skirmish or two, the One Hundred and First took part in the storming of Missionary Ridge, and then, in battles and skirmishes too numerous to mention here, it fought its way along, with the rest of Sherman's army, all the way to Savannah, and back through the Carolinas and Virginia to Washington, making as brilliant a record for bravery and fidelity as any regiment in

the army. Mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, after having marched, during its term of service, 3,507 miles, traveled by railroad 759 miles, and by steamer 650 miles, a total of 4,916 miles.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH.

A respectable representation of Wells County's patriotic citizens risked their lives for their country in this regiment, among the officers being Captains William H. Covert and James A. Millikin and Lieutenant John S. Campbell. The regiment was recruited wholly from the old Eleventh Congressional District, then comprising the counties of Wells, Adams, Jay, Blackford, Grant, Huntington, Wabash, Tipton, Madison and Hamilton during the winter of 1863-'64, rendezvoused at Kokomo, and mustered into service March 12, 1864, with Charles S. Parrish, of Wabash, as Colonel. The men were immediately ordered to Nashville, Tennessee, and then to Charleston, East Tennessee, where they were in camp until May 3, when they took up the line of march until they first met the enemy at Rocky Face Ridge, away down in Georgia. After participating in the battle there, they were again engaged in various skirmishes, terminating in the celebrated battle of Resaca, where they successfully repelled a furious charge from the enemy. Pursuing the Confederates still further, skirmishing was the order of exercises every day, in rain, without rations, etc., until they again met the enemy, June 17, at Lost Mountain. Subsequently they were engaged in the battles of Pine Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain, the siege of Atlanta, battle of Jonesboro, etc., until the army extinguished Hood's forces near Nashville.

Returning North, the One Hundred and Thirtieth was ordered via Washington, D. C., to Fort Fisher, North Carolina, and to other

points in succession until it reached Newbern, that State, and Kingston, near which place it encountered the enemy and drove him back. Shortly after it joined Sherman's army at Goldsboro, which army was soon turned over to General Schofield, for a short period. On reaching Smithfield, on the 11th of April, 1865, our men received the news of Lee's surrender and the virtual close of the war. During the summer and fall ensuing the regiment was on guard duty at Charlotte, and was finally mustered out of service December 2, with 27 officers and 540 men.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVENTH,

which had a number of soldiers from Wells County, was a 100-day regiment. Edward J. Robinson, of North Madison, was Colonel. It was organized and mustered into service at Indianapolis, May 27, 1864, and proceeded to Tennessee. It served more than 100 days, doing duty along the lines of the railroads which supported Sherman in his advance upon Atlanta.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY,

also a 100-day regiment, had three companies from the old Eleventh Congressional District. James H. Shannon, of La Porte, was Colonel. These recruits were organized and mustered into service at Indianapolis May 27, 1864, along with several other 100-day regiments, and did the same service as described above for the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THIRD INFANTRY

contained a full company of volunteers from Wells County.—Company E,—of which Benjamin F. Wiley, of Bluffton, was Captain; John M. Henry, of Ossian, First Lieutenant, and Marvin W. Bennett, of Ossian, Second Lieutenant. Oliver H. P. Carey, of Marion,

was Colonel. This was a one year regiment, wholly from the Eleventh Congressional District. It left Indianapolis March 5, 1865, for the battle-field, and operated in Kentucky, skirmishing, fighting guerrillas and guarding the city of Louisville, until September 4 of that year, when it was mustered out of service.

INDIANA LEGION.

Harrison Guards: Captain Herod T. True and First Lieutenant Picket P. Connett, of Bluffton.

Jefferson Guards: Captain James Gorrell and First Lieutenant John W. Todd, of Ossian.

THE HEROIC DEAD OF WELLS COUNTY.

From the *Banner* of May 21, 1885, E. Y. Sturgis, editor, we copy the following list, as complete as could be made, of the soldiers from Wells County who died or were killed in the last war, with their place of burial or the places at which they died:

Officers.—Lieutenant-Colonel William Swain, Thirty-fourth Infantry, buried at Ossian; First Lieutenant J. Sharpe Wisner, Company A, Forty-seventh Infantry, Bluffton; Second Lieutenant John B. Louis, Company A, Forty-seventh Infantry, Bluffton; First Lieutenant Lewis W. Dailey, Company I, Twenty-second Infantry, Murray; Second Lieutenant Uriah Todd, Company K, Seventy-fifth Infantry, Prospect; Captain Sanford R. Karns, Company K, Seventy-fifth Infantry, Bluffton; First Lieutenant Simon Krewson, Company G, One Hundred and First Infantry, Prospect; Second Lieutenant Abe S. Masterson, Company B, One Hundred and First Infantry, Six Mile; Captain James A. Milliken, Company F, One Hundred and Thirtieth Infantry, Ossian.

Thirteenth Regiment.—William Allen, killed at Stone River; Ebenezer Taylor,

Prospect; J. Lepper, died in Southern prison; Joseph M. Gardiner.

Thirty-fourth Regiment.—George Wilson, Ossian; Sylvester Catton, Prospect; Francis M. Fry, killed at Port Gibson; Richard M. Goshorn, Ossian; Josiah H. Houtz, died in Louisiana; Daniel Kitchen, Prospect; James McConnell, Ossian; William Ogden, Iowa; James Patterson, killed at Champion Hills; Steven Parkison, died at Brazos Santiago, Texas; Samuel Richardson, Helena, Arkansas; William Alley, mortally wounded at Champion Hills; De Witt C. Clark, James Hagne, Jacob Hess, Leonard Prongh, Peter Pence, John West and Thomas Bell, died in Wells County; Warren Housel, died in New Orleans; W. Thompson, died in Helena, Arkansas; Joseph Proctor, died at Camp Wickliffe; Miland J. True, drowned in Mississippi River; Othello Welcheimer, died at New Madrid, Missouri; J. Craven, died at Memphis, Tennessee; Milton P. Wilson, Nashville, Tennessee; Ed. Courtney, Joseph Kline, Henry Hartup, Caleb Ayers, Daniel Justice, Wilson Gibson, William Hammon, L. Ray, Daniel Calkins.

Forty-seventh Regiment.—Joseph W. Stout and W. O. Butterfield, died at St. Louis; John Custard, Helena, Arkansas; John S. Devoss, died of wounds received at Chapel Hill; Job I. Devoss, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; David H. Bender, Bluffton; William H. Stobie, died in Missouri; Madison Hall, Memphis, Tennessee; William H. Jeffreys, died in the West; Abel S. Johnson, died in St. Louis; Isaac Johnson, killed in Mississippi; John Jones, Tiptonville, Tennessee; Levi Meehling, Mound City, Illinois; Theodore McLaughlin, Benton, Missouri; Evan H. Phillips, New Orleans; John Snow, Wells County; John Tate and William H. Thorp, Helena, Arkansas; E. Thraikill, killed in Mississippi; David Updegraff, Wells

County; Thomas J. Helm and John Wilson, New Orleans; Joshua Snider, Prospect; Jonathan Ady, Benton, Missouri; Jesse M. Routh, Bluffton; Marshall Clark, Milliken's Bend; Thomas Boden, Bluffton; William Henley, killed at Champion Hills; Josiah Singleton, Benton, Missouri; Henry Singleton, Nelson's Furnace, Kentucky; Robert Walder, Champion Hills; Sanford Witham, Morganza, Louisiana; J. W. Stanton, Rockford; Reed Shaw, Michael Hodgson, Thomas Crumley, James Wallace.

Seventy-fifth Regiment.—Ross McFadden, Munfordville, Kentucky; Abe Wilson, Bluffton; J. G. Cartright, Nashville, Tennessee; William Cupp, Louisville, Kentucky; Thomas Allen, Evansville, Indiana; Patrick Boyle, Ringgold, Georgia; John W. Lancaster, Twibell's cemetery; Silas Lancaster, Log Mountain, Tennessee; William Brown, Peach Tree Creek; James Burwell, Bluffton; Henry J. Cartwright, Ossian; William Ware, Mossburg cemetery; John Graham and Silas Smith, Murfreesboro; Andrew J. Harter, Chickamauga; William Mason, Scottsville, Kentucky; John C. Millikin, Ossian; Royal V. Rich, Gallatin, Tennessee; W. Templeton, New Albany, Indiana; J. S. Wilson, Tullahoma, Tennessee; Columbus Bennett, killed at Chickamauga; O. Wilmington, Gallatin, Tennessee; Leander Slusser, New York Harbor; Adam Perry, William Powell, J. Dumbo, Thomas Ricker, D. A. Riley, J. Jellison, William Ware (Company E), William Luckey, William Williams.

One Hundred and First Regiment.—Harrison Foneannon, Bluffton; J. L. Morgan, Chickamauga; Thomas Lagan, Munfordville, Kentucky; John Glass, Louisville, Kentucky; Francis M. Clark, Andersonville prison; G. W. Barton, Munfordville, Kentucky; Abraham Bender, Louisville, Kentucky; J. S. Clark, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Reuben

Crist and J. M. Connett, Murfreesboro; Levi D. Deaver, died of wounds; William Ewing, Lebanon, Kentucky; William Falor, Cowen, Tennessee; William V. Lewis, Murfreesboro; J. Lesh, W. W. Miller and S. Sims, Andersonville prison; Charles Miller, John Thompson, John R. Weaver, Jacob Bowman, L. D. Harvey, H. B. Peek, David Sides, George Smith and C. Vandine, Murfreesboro; A. Nevins, Joseph Torrence and William Conner, killed at Chickamanga; Alex. S. Oaks, Danville, Virginia, prison; Jacob Weiser, Munfordsville, Kentucky; Harrison Taylor, Jeffersonville, Indiana; L. D. Wilson, Indianapolis; Lyman M. Peck, Zanesville; R. W. Chalfant and J. P. Cherry, Munfordsville, Kentucky; Enos Feltz, Zanesville; Henry Griffith, Sonner's graveyard; A. J. Nash, Gallatin, Tennessee; William Nelson, killed at Milton, Tennessee; Joseph Ormsby, Prospect; A. B. Columbus, shot; Jacob Palm, Ossian; Sanford Nelson, Orlando Leeper, William Ewing, A. J. Barlow, Hugh Ayers, Robert, Abner and Charles Sinkler, Josiah Smith, John Schoch, Charles Hixon.

One Hundred and Thirtieth Regiment.—John M. Nash, Charlotte, North Carolina; D. Connett, Andersonville prison; Isaac Caston, killed by guerrillas; George Clark, Nashville, Tennessee; W. R. Gardiner, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Lewis Hendry and Joseph King, killed by guerrillas; Joseph Haynes, Knoxville, Tennessee; James Wilson, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Thomas S. Harter, Tullahoma, Tennessee; George Barton, died in Andersonville prison; Henry Connett, Uriah Nash, Thomas Moran.

Other Regiments.—Andrew Byrd, Henry Schell, James Brown, Eleventh Infantry.

Samuel Patterson, J. Arnold, Fifty-first Infantry.

Elmore Johns and Richard Beard, Fifty-seventh Infantry.

William Peppard, Company K, One Hundred and Forty-second Infantry.

Robert Campbell, Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-third Infantry.

M. V. Davis and Joseph F. Aker, Fifty-third Infantry.

John Higgs, Company C, Forty-fourth Infantry.

William and James Allen, Thirteenth Cavalry.

John Calkins, Fifty-fourth Infantry.

George Roush, Fifty-second Infantry.

Nelson G. Fulton, Twenty-second Infantry, killed at Rome, Georgia.

Thomas Phipps, Twenty-second Infantry, died in Missouri.

John A. Stobie, Thirtieth Infantry, Murray.

Jacob Keller, Fifth Indiana, Mexican war.

Henry Eehrt, Bluffton.

Allen L. Miller, killed at Champion Hills.

John Thomas, Six Mile.

Albert Lindsey, Mexican war, old cemetery.

William Carpenter, drowned in White River.

Hampton Osborn, died at Louisville, Kentucky.

Mont Wilson, signal service, died at New Orleans.

James Jackson, war of 1812, Mendenhall cemetery.

John Jackson, Markle.

Levi Sayler, Chickamanga.

Thomas Deaver, Mission Ridge.

Henry Mossburg, war of 1812, Mossburg cemetery.

Rural Wright, war of 1812.

Charles Sloan, Sparks cemetery.

A. Price and Mr. Diekey, Rockford cemetery.

Silas H. Wentz, old cemetery.

Thomas Deaver, William Griffey, David Miller, William Beasley, war of 1812.



PROFESSIONAL.

THE BAR.

BY JOS. S. DAILEY.

THE first term of the Circuit Court of Wells County convened at the residence of Robert C. Bennett, where Bluffton is now situated, in October,

1837, with the following officers: Charles W. Ewing, Judge; John Swett and James R. Greer, Associate Judges; Bowen Hale, Clerk; Isaac Covert, Sheriff, and Thomas Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney.

The first grand jury consisted of Abraham McDowell, James Guthrie, James Mace, James Wright, James Colburn, David Bennett, Christopher Miller, William Ray, William P. Davis, Henry Mace, Jeremiah Masterson, Nathaniel Batson, Isaac Dewitt, James Harvey, Isaac Wright, Isaac Lewellyn, Joseph Jones and Buell Baldwin, and petit jurors, Joseph Sparks, John McCullick, Noah Tobey, John Seck, Newton Putnam, Allen Norcross, Andrew Brown, John Higgins, John Casebeer, Goldsmith Baldwin, Samuel Wallace,

Conklin Masterson, Henry Miller, Henry Myers, Daniel Miller, John C. Whitman, James Jarrett, David Snyder, Mason Powell, William Fencannon, Samuel Myers, Adam Miller, John Swett and James R. Greer, all of whom but Newton Putnam are dead.

The first court entry was made on October 19, 1837.

The grand jurors previous to the April term, 1839, failed to present any one for crime, but at this term John T. Elliott, of New Castle, Indiana, afterward supreme judge, appeared as prosecuting attorney, and the first indictments in the county were then found and presented, and the court made the following entry in relation thereto, which will be found on page 21, Minute Book "A": "Ordered by the court that in all bills of indictment found at the present term of this court for assaults and batteries, betting, and selling and giving spirits to Indians, the defendants be required to enter into recognizance in the sum of \$25 each and security in a like sum and in all indictments for grand larceny and for suffering gaming in grocery

or taverns the defendants be required to enter into recognizance in the sum of \$100 each with security in a like sum."

At the September term, 1839, Ewing was succeeded on the bench by Hon. David Kilgore, of Muncie, afterward speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives and subsequently for two terms a member of Congress from the "Old Burnt District." At this term, among others, the famous Moses Jenkinson, Judge Jeremiah Smith, of Winchester, and Judge Jacob B. Julian, now of Indianapolis, were admitted to practice in this court. The first criminal proceeding tried was against Associate Judge James R. Greer, who entered a plea of guilty to a charge of betting and was fined one dollar. It seems that the judges in those days dealt out justice impartially and in proof of this made one of their own number the first victim of the majesty of the law. At this term John Brownlee, of Grant County, since a leading member of the Marion Bar, and who is still living, was the prosecuting attorney. The criminal docket contained fifty-two causes, of which forty-five were for betting, and most of the prominent citizens of the county were placed under indictment.

At the March term, 1840, the late Jeremiah Smith appeared as prosecuting attorney.

At the October term, 1840, the first divorce petition in the county was filed. Prior to that event domestic bliss and felicity seem to have reigned supreme.

At the April term, 1841, Samuel Ogden succeeded John Swett as associate judge, and at this term John P. Greer, still living at an advanced age at Topeka, Kansas, became the first resident member of the Wells County Bar and was one of its leading lights until his removal from the State in 1857. The first entry in the probate docket of the county was made by William Wallace, probate judge,

on November 10, 1841, ordering a writ of habeas corpus for the body of one Martin Perry.

At the March term, 1842, James W. Borden, of Fort Wayne, succeeded to the judgeship and Lucien P. Ferry of the same place appeared as prosecuting attorney. Borden, though only a moderate lawyer, was a man of fine physical proportions, an excellent conversationalist, and spent the subsequent years of his life in office, having been a member of the constitutional convention, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, minister to the Sandwich Islands under Buchanan, again common pleas judge, and he died in the harness as judge of the Allen Criminal Court about six years ago. The court as then constituted had an equitable but arbitrary way of apportioning costs, and at this term, in the case of "Andy" Ferguson v. Almon Case, where the jury found for the plaintiff in the sum of \$2, the court ordered "that each party pay one-half the costs."

At the September term, 1842, the name of Horatio M. Shack, the second resident attorney of Bluffton, appears of record. At this term William H. Coombs of Fort Wayne appeared as prosecuting attorney. After having practiced at that city for more than one-half of a century, he rounded off his career by a brief service on the supreme bench, and is now living at a "green old age," but retired from business cares. During this term the judge and ex-Prosecuting Attorney Ferry were jointly indicted on the novel charge of "aiding in the escape of a prisoner."

At the March term, 1843, the venerable David H. Colerick, still in life, appeared as prosecuting attorney. He was at his prime a man of excellent delivery and surpassing eloquence, and several of his sons have inherited great ability in these respects. At

this term John W. Dawson, afterward editor of the Fort Wayne *Times*, and subsequently Governor of Utah Territory, was admitted to the bar. He was a ready writer and a strong, aggressive man, but his pilgrimage closed about ten years ago. Two important events occurred at this term, viz., the conviction of Associate Justice Greer for violating the revenue laws, and the indictment of S. G. Upton, the third resident attorney admitted to the bar, for barratry, but for the credit of the fraternity let it be said that he was acquitted of the charge.

At the September term, 1843, Robert B. Turner became associate judge with Greer, and Lewis Lynn was then sheriff.

At the March term, 1844, Lysander C. Jacoby was special prosecutor. During this session Ezekiel Parker was convicted of obtaining goods under false pretense, which was the first successful prosecution of a felony in the county.

At the March term, 1845, Jonathan Garton became associate judge, and continued in this capacity with Greer until the office was abolished by the adoption of the new Constitution in 1852. At this term James R. Slack, a Union General during the Rebellion and afterward judge of the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit, acted as prosecuting attorney. He was a man of rugged sense and old-fashioned honesty.

At the August term, 1845, and March term, 1846, Elza A. McMahon, afterward judge of this circuit, but long a resident of Minnesota, acted as prosecuting attorney.

In 1847 Isaac Covert again became sheriff, but with this exception the same judges and officers continued until March, 1848, when Samuel G. Upton was commissioned prosecuting attorney. He was a straight dignified New Yorker, prematurely gray, who thought his frosty head was the result of hard study,

but who never was a lawyer "to hurt." He engaged for a number of years in editing and publishing the Bluffton *Banner*, and was for a time postmaster at this place, but ended his career about three years ago at New Orleans, Louisiana, at the advanced age of seventy-five years. In 1849 Isaac Covert retired from the shrievalty and was succeeded by Amza White.

At the December term, 1849, James L. Worden acted as prosecuting attorney. He was born in Massachusetts in 1819, but lost his father in infancy, removed to Portage County, Ohio, when a child and was deprived of the advantages of an early education. He was largely self-taught, and removed to Indiana during his early manhood, where, by his real merits, he gained rapid promotions, first to the office of prosecuting attorney, next to the nisi prius bench, and afterward to the Supreme Bench of Indiana, where he remained nineteen years, and his opinions were so much regarded that he was styled the "old reliable" and the "John Marshall" of that court.

At the March term, 1851, the accomplished and persuasive John R. Coffroth, who needs no introduction to our people, was admitted to practice here. Judges L. M. Ninde, William W. Carson and Jacob M. Haynes and Isaac Jenkinson were admitted at the same time, and Benedict Burns was added as the fourth resident member of the bar.

At the March term, 1852, Amza White, an original character in his day, and Arthur W. Sanford, afterward a prominent clergyman of Marion, Indiana, but now of Michigan, were admitted to the force of local counsel. At this term James L. Worden acted as prosecuting attorney, and in March, 1853, he produced his commission and qualified as prosecutor. William Porter was then added to the list of resident attorneys. In the

earlier court practice they disposed of business in a summary manner after the fashion of the old English "dusty foot" court, and while it was rough on the victim, little complaint was made of the law's delay. One notable instance of this kind was the trial of Detro and Brown, in 1851, for the larceny of a horse belonging to Daniel Miller. They had taken the stolen property into Ohio. The vigilance committee got upon their trail, pursued them to near the city of Dayton, captured the thieves with their plunder, and re-crossed the State line without the aid of a requisition, brought the captives to Bluffton, and on the day of their arrival they were indicted, tried, convicted, sentenced to the penitentiary and on the morning of the next day the sheriff started with his prisoners to Jeffersonville to execute the judgment of the court. It was claimed that this was done in obedience to that clause in the organic law of the State which declares that "justice shall be administered speedily and without delay."

At the August term, 1853, Edwin R. Wilson, whose biographical sketch will be found elsewhere, was admitted and became a resident member of the bar. Michael Miller succeeded White as sheriff, and at the February term, 1854, Edwin R. Wilson was prosecuting attorney.

At the February term, 1855, his brother, John L. Wilson, recently on the common pleas bench at Morrow, Ohio, was placed on the roll of local attorneys, and also the name of John N. Reynolds, an auctioneer and pettifogger of great tact, who "lost his grip" when he reached the Circuit Court.

At the August term, 1855, James L. Worden qualified as circuit judge, and in the November following George McDowell, a brother of the late Hon. James F. McDowell, of Marion, succeeded Bowen Hale as clerk

(who had retired after a service of seventeen years).

At the February term, 1857, Robert E. Hutcheson, afterward somewhat distinguished at the Columbus, Ohio, bar, was added to the list of resident counsel, but he remained only a brief time. At this term David T. Smith was admitted to practice, and he has been here continuously ever since.

At the February term, 1858, Renben J. Dawson, of Albion, Indiana, became circuit judge, James F. McDowell, subsequently a member of Congress from this district and a man of charming eloquence, was admitted to the bar, and George S. Brown, a scholarly man of fine appearance, located here and was also admitted to the bar. He subsequently located at Huntington, Indiana, where he for a time was engaged in business with Colonel L. P. Milligan, one of the finest logicians of the Wabash Valley, and from there he removed to Topeka, Kansas, where in the midst of an extensive and growing practice he died of blood cancer. During this year Newton Burwell, a fluent speaker, ready writer and well-read man, was admitted to the bar, and for many years was identified with much important litigation in our courts, but the hand of business adversity was laid heavily upon him, and after following a diversity of pursuits and rowing against the tide, he at last took up the line of march and drifted to Rapid City, Dakota. At this term Nicholas Van Horn commenced the practice here, but being of a somewhat notional disposition, he has been alternately lawyer, preacher and doctor, and is now trying his hand at a variety of vocations in Texas. During this term one of the most important criminal trials occurred that has ever transpired in the history of the county. One Moses T. Murphy, a merchant of Vera Cruz, had gone into the country for the purpose of

procuring teams to haul wheat to Fort Wayne, and while in the woods between the residences of John Linn and Harvey Risley, he was slain. His continued absence excited the suspicion of his family, friends and neighbors, who instituted a thorough search for him. His body was found with marks of violence upon his head, indicating that he had been felled by some blunt instrument, and upon closer inspection it was ascertained that his jugular vein was severed. A club bespattered with blood and hair was also found near the body. Suspicion at once, whether justly or otherwise, rested upon Dr. William Freeman, who was Mr. Murphy's neighbor. He was arrested and indicted for the crime, and after an exciting trial, was acquitted. The case was ably prosecuted by Sanford J. Stoughton, prosecuting attorney, assisted by Messrs. Ninde and Wilson, and was defended by Messrs. McDowell, Miligan and Coffroth. Edwin R. Wilson became judge at the December term, 1858, and James M. Defrees, of Goshen, who long since died, prosecuting attorney. Thomas L. Wisner became clerk in November, 1859.

At the February term, 1860, John Cole-
rick, a man of magnetic and persuasive elo-
quence, succeeded to the office of prosecutor,
and in February, 1861, was in turn succeeded
by Augustus A. Chapin, present judge of the
Allen Superior Court.

On August 23, 1861, Thomas W. Wilson
became a member of this bar, and Nathaniel
De Haven became sheriff. In November,
1864, James H. Schell became prosecutor and
in the following February Robert Lowry, a
member of the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth
Congress from the Fort Wayne District, took
his seat upon the bench. The chief business
transacted in the courts of this county from
the years 1861 to 1867 inclusive, was by
some general divorce agents residing at Fort

Wayne, who operated for the Middle, Eastern
and New England States and Canada. Di-
vorcees under the lax laws then existing were
ground out by the half-bushel.

During the subsequent years of our juris-
prudence the circuit court has been provided
with officers as follows: Judges—Robert
Lowry until April, 1873, when he was suc-
ceeded by Jacob M. Haynes, who continued
until November, 1878, when his successor,
James R. Bobo, qualified, and continued as
such until April, 1885, at which time he was
succeeded by Henry B. Sayler, present judge.
James R. McCleery succeeded Wisner as
clerk in November, 1867, and continued as
such until his death in April, 1875. Thomas
L. Wisner was commissioned as his successor
and held until November, 1875. William J.
Craig was clerk from November, 1875, to
November, 1883, since which John H.
Ormsby has filled the trust. Manuel Chal-
fant was sheriff from 1865 to 1867, and from
1869 to 1871, Isaiah J. Covault from 1867 to
1869 and from 1871 to 1873, William W.
Wisel from 1873 to 1877, James B. Plessin-
ger from 1877 to 1881, Marcellus M. Justus
from 1881 to 1885, and since then Henry
Kirkwood has been sheriff. This court has
been supplied with the following prosecutors
during the interim named: Thomas W. Wil-
son from November, 1866, to November,
1868; Joseph S. Dailey, from November,
1868, to November, 1876; Joshua Bishop
from November, 1876, to November, 1877;
Luther I. Baker from 1877 to 1880; John T.
France from November, 1880, to November,
1884, and since then Edwin C. Vaughn has
been prosecutor.

At the November term, 1870, James Gil-
len was tried for the murder of William J.
McCleery, but was convicted of manslaughter
and sentenced to the penitentiary for twelve
years. It was a case that created great ex-

citement and much interest, and was ably conducted by both sides, but as most of the actors in that forensic contest are yet living, the writer deems it proper not to particularize in the matter. The usually quiet and law-abiding county of Wells has been at times under great commotion by reason of homicides in her midst. In late years John Strode was tried for the murder of Daniel Miller, an old pioneer of the county; Mary M. Eddingfield for the alleged poisoning of her children; Frank Hoopengartner for killing Needham McBride; George W. King for killing Martin Thayer, and William Walker for slaying George Shaw. Some of these cases were of great moral turpitude, and are a blotch upon the otherwise fair escutcheon of the county; but a portion of the cases had many extenuating circumstances, and in the case of Hoopengartner the jury wisely found it to be one of justifiable homicide. The actors in these contests are nearly all upon the stage, and for the reasons heretofore stated we will not individualize in reference to them. Under the present Constitution we had the anomaly, from 1853 to 1873, of a Court of Common Pleas erected and organized with almost concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court, and during its existence it contained the following officers: Wilson B. Loughridge was judge from its organization to January, 1861, when he was succeeded by Joseph Brackenridge. James W. Borden became judge in January, 1865, and continued until January, 1868, when Robert S. Taylor, one of the learned and best equipped attorneys of this State, was commissioned his successor. David Studabaker succeeded him in January, 1869, but resigned in September, 1869, and Robert S. Taylor was then re-appointed by Governor Baker. In January, 1871, William W. Carson became judge, and in January, 1873, Samuel E. Sinclair was com-

missioned and held the office until it was abolished as a needless expense about three months thereafter. The prosecutors of this court were Benedict Burns, Newton Burwell, James G. Smith, David T. Smith, David Colerick, Joseph S. Dailey and Benjamin F. Ibach.

During the first thirty years of our county's history the business transactions were small, and one order book of this court embraces all the civil and criminal causes there tried from its organization up to and including the January term, 1859. During the subsequent period of our jurisprudence several parties were admitted to the bar, and for a time were engaged as counsel here, who no longer respond to the roll call. Among these were Thomas A. R. Eaton, now on the retired list, but an excellent citizen of the county, and William J. Bright, who edited the *Wells County Union*. He was "bright" by name and nature, but died at the beginning of his career in our midst. In 1863 Daniel J. Callen, an eloquent orator and "word-painter," came and practiced here, but soon returned to his native State, Ohio, which he for a time served with distinction in her legislative councils. Mr. Callen has been in his grave for the last decade. Benjamin G. Shinn, now a prominent lawyer of Hartford City, was admitted to the practice here on September 19, 1865. Hon. Daniel Wagh, present judge of the Tipton and Howard circuit, was admitted May 22, 1866, with the well-known Jacob J. Todd, and James A. Cotton May 20, 1867. William J. Davis, a graduate of Washington College, Pennsylvania, located here and was admitted to the bar in 1871, and Captain William J. Hilligass in the year succeeding. Joseph W. Ady, who now enjoys a State-wide reputation in Kansas, was raised in Wells County, and admitted to the bar, but shortly after this event obeyed the

injunction of the white-hatted philosopher who said, "Young man, go West."

Our present bar comprises more than one-half of all the members who ever engaged as resident attorneys at this place, and embraces the names of Edwin R. Wilson, David T. Smith, Joseph S. Dailey, Jacob J. Todd, Levi Mock, Augustus N. Martin, ex-reporter supreme court, John K. Rinehart, James P. Hale, A. L. Sharpe, J. H. C. Smith, Homer L. Martin, Edwin C. Vaughn, Charles M. France, Mines W. Lee, George W. Kimble, David H. Swain, William T. T. Swain, Win. S. Silver, Asbury Duglay, Abram Simmons, Luther B. Simmons and Charles E. Lacey; and without particularizing or making any invidious distinctions, the writer with confidence states that this list comprises a galaxy of attorneys as well equipped for the great work of the profession as can be found in any county of Indiana.

Since the influx of railroads into the county in the autumn of 1869 the county has more than doubled in population and tripled in material wealth; 2 000 miles of open ditches have been constructed and many of turnpikes.

All kinds of commercial pursuits are being actively conducted, and the county is rapidly gaining a front rank as an educated, enterprising and public-spirited locality; and as a result of the growth and development of her material interests much litigation has necessarily followed in the last fifteen years. But the Wells County bar have been equal to the emergency, fully qualified for the great work they have been called upon to perform, and in their efforts to establish rights and redress wrongs they have been aided at all times by an intelligent and incorruptible judiciary.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF WELLS COUNTY.

BY C. T. MELSHEIMER, M. D.

The profession of medicine, like her twin sisters, law and theology, as a consequence has its origin in human misfortune, and all are designed to relieve the various ills that have their cause in some moral or physical transgression. Savage nations have their sachems, prophets and great medicine men, whose duty it is to look after the interests of their tribe, while civilized nations do the same under the more learned ministrations of medicine, law and theology. Hence wherever civilization advances, it has its advance guard of physicians, lawyers and ministers to keep it in the straight path of physical and moral rectitude.

The medical history of any place would not prove very satisfactory to the general reader, unless it embraced a brief history of the topography, together with its climate and the manners and customs of the inhabitants. The inducements which nature held out to the first settlers of Wells County were a vast, slightly undulating surface, rich in organic deposits, and clothed (with a few exceptions) in a heavy growth of deciduous trees, embracing pretty much every variety usually found in the North temperate climate, of which the hardier variety, growing mostly upon the uplands, while those of the softer woods on the low. A few wet prairies formed the exception, and these no doubt in the early history of the country were so many superficial lakes. They were covered with a very rank growth of aquatic vegetation, whose annual destruction contributed to a rich deposit of organic matter, that has since been converted into fruitful fields by the hand of improvement. It has a drift formation varying from a few feet in thickness on the creek and river bottoms, to sixty or seventy on the

nplands, and is underlaid with the various qualities of limestone, as shown from the recent borings for gas and oil in the city of Bluffton, ending in salt water, instead of gas or oil.

The drainage of the county is dependent upon the Wabash and Salamonie rivers and their numerous tributaries. The former traverses the county from a southeast direction, through the townships of Harrison, Lancaster and Rock Creek, and the latter somewhat parallel through the townships of Chester and Jackson, in the southwest part of the county, while Rock Creek, the principal tributary of the Wabash River, runs near midway between. All their tributaries have their origin in the many "swails or slashes" (as they are termed in the local dialect of the county) that studs its surface, and are very meandering in their course to the rivers. Their water supply is purely of a surface character, mostly made up of what the earth fails to absorb during continuous rainfalls. Before thorough drainage changed their condition they were filled to overflow during the winter and spring; later on their contents were heated by the summer sun and evaporation, together with some degree of imperfect drainage, reduced their contents to a minimum. As a natural result, this condition was fatal to the smaller vegetation, as well as the myriads of microbes and larger aquatic animals that usually infest such damp places. The result of this soon became a putrid mass of vegeto-animal matter, whose emanations freighted the air with a cause that not only produced disease, but also death in many instances to the hardy settler.

However limited our knowledge is in regard to what marsh miasm is, whether gaseous, meteoric, vegeto-animal, or vegetable spores, as some claim, the fact remains patent that it requires a temperature of sixty degrees and upward, a soil rich in organic elements,

and a sufficient amount of moisture to generate a cause that will always weaken and retard the efforts of the pioneer to pave the way for a higher civilization in a fertile country. There is no other cause that will produce so many pathological deviations as this has done in times past, before the hand of improvement sapped its strength, and reduced it from a primal cause to an unimportant factor in the complication of other diseases as we see it to-day. Its effects were impartially distributed, neither age, sex or condition were spared its inflictions. The springtime of life, the summer of manhood, and the autumn of hoary age, were equally alike the subject of its visitations. It had no limit to its pathological range, from the simplest intermittent down to the deadly algid, and from the harmless remittent to that of a malignant or pernicious type, that frequently ended in sudden death. In some instances the stomach and bowels received the shock, and produced gastro-enteric hemorrhages that threatened the life of the patient, for the time being. In others the cranial nerves received the brunt that conveyed the impression of an acute attack of meningitis. While in others again, a coma so profound was developed suggesting a fatal case of apoplexy, while yet in others a gentle soporific condition was wrought simulating a tranced state resembling death, by the apparent suspension of all functional movements. Such and many more uncommon deviations might be noticed as falling under the observations of those physicians who first aided in the development of this country.

The old settler's improvement, or rather clearings, as they were called, rarely exceeded a few acres in extent, with the primitive log cabin somewhere near the centre and a log stable off to one side. It was nothing but a mere hole or opening in the forest that per-

mitted the heat of the summer's sun to reach the earth and warm it, and the air enclosed within. As the latter became heated it also became buoyant through rarification, ascended upward, leaving a partial vacuum, which was filled by the cooler air of the surrounding forest in the daytime. While toward the approach of night, with the declining sun, evaporation was partially stayed, a thin vaporous cloud was formed which covered the entire improvement like a blanket suspended a few feet above the earth's surface. In most instances in which the settler was located the soil was so constantly saturated with moisture that a shallow excavation lined with a few feet of Syeamore gum furnished an ample supply of water. During the winter's cold it answered every purpose, but as warm weather approached there was an increased demand for its use which was not so satisfactory. It had lost its refrigerating qualities, and its warmth had developed a disagreeable brackish taste that no species of filtration could remove. In this condition some boiled it, and after it settled, used it, and considered this made quite an improvement upon the original, and no doubt but what it was, as it destroyed all the germs and microbes that an open soil failed to retain.

It was from such conditions that malaria gathered strength, and became the primal cause in the genesis of disease that gave to the fertile valleys of the Mannee and Wabash the unsavory reputation of the white man's necropolis.

Every returning summer and fall the settler was harassed by the effects of this concealed foe, whose power was continually strengthened by the addition of every acre to his improvement. The only alternative for him was to bear his afflictions with all his patience until the autumnal frosts destroyed the cause.

Notwithstanding all their sufferings from sickness, and the various annoyances attendant upon the first settling of the country, they were the proper persons for the occasion. And while it is true that many fell in their meritorious efforts to pave the way to a higher civilization, the seeds then sown have taken deep root and furnished a prolific harvest for the enjoyment of their stalwart sons and daughters of to-day. As a general thing, history will record the fact that they were friendly in all their social relations, profuse in their hospitality, generous to a fault, and honest in the discharge of their duty. They were—

"No slaves to sect, no secret road they trod,
But looked through nature up to nature's God."

The doctor was a kind of medical non-descript in comparison with the members of the profession to-day. As a general thing he had the greater part of his life's works before him, was full of energy, and possessed a surplus of vitality that required just such environments to keep him within the bounds of moral rectitude. He was very courteous to his patients, so much so, to all who were old enough were dignified as uncles and aunts and few of the elders received the honors of grandparents. He had schooled himself for coolness and deliberation amidst all the excitements from accidents "by flood or field." Whatever misfortunes occurred were viewed as unavoidable under the circumstances, so far as he was concerned. With him the past was beyond his recall, the future he knew nothing about, but the ever present was his, and he utilized it in such a manner as to give the most satisfactory results. He was from the very nature of his surroundings a concentrated embodiment of all the specialties so markedly characteristic of the profession to-day, and was compelled to assume the

role of physician, surgeon, obstetrician, dentist, aurist, oculist and if there had been occasion for the gynecologist this would have been added as an appendix to his other duties. These various callings of his required quite a collection of drugs to meet the demands, and together with a certain degree of self-reliance which isolation imparts, made him master of the situation in a vast majority of instances. When contemplating a visit in the country, which was a daily occurrence, he meant rough business and was prepared for it. Hence his usual outfit was an old slouched hat or cap, that had borne the brunt of many exposures, adorned his head, while the lower extremities were encased in a pair of coarse stogy boots, and the ever present green flannel leggings, as further protection against mud and water, together with the compulsory spur attached to the heel, were the outfits. The protection of his body by some species of mathematical adaptability was made equal to the extremes, and the result was a kind of an object that required a rapid evolution of Darwinism to bring him up to the present regulation standard. Thus equipped and armed with a portly pair of pill bags, he started on horse-back upon his humane mission, over wagon tracks, along bridle paths, through slashes of water and mud midships deep, and not unfrequently with no other directions than the blazed track to the lonely cabin in the forest. At night the hickory bark torch or the punctured tin lantern lighted with a tallow dip furnished a frail substitute for the light of the sun.

Thus in brief you have the biography of a pioneer physician from the pen of a junior member who participated in the events which the mutations of time had wrought some forty-three years ago, and were shrouded in the obscurities of the past until resurrected by one who stands a representative of that

period without a constituency. In the providence of God all his co-laborers have laid down their burdens, and joined their kindred spirits across the dark waters of Lethe.

The contrast between the past and the present is so great that its reality appears "like the baseless fabric of a vision that leaves no trace behind." The steady hand of improvement has measurably destroyed the cause that annually furnished a very prolific harvest of miasmatic diseases to the physician. So, too, the wilderness has been converted into many fruitful fields. The old cabin, that virtue of pioneer necessity, has long since given place to the more pretentious dwellings. An increasing commerce has demanded gravel roads instead of wagon tracks and bridle paths. And the intercourse of the outer world is maintained by railroads and telegraphs, through which distance is diminished by the locomotive's flight and time annihilated by the electric flash. Numerous villages have sprung up as if by the hand of the magician, and the country is teeming with an intelligent and enterprising population that thus far has kept step in the progressive march of the nineteenth century.

MEDICAL CHRONOLOGY.

The first physician in the chronological order was Dr. John Knox, who immigrated to Wells County in 1829 and located near Murray on the farm subsequently owned by Henry Miller.

The second physician was Dr. Williams, located in the village of Murray in 1838. By what few settlers that neighborhood contained he had the reputation of being a successful practitioner. His death occurred a few years afterward in that place.

The third in the county was Dr. William Fellows, a regular practitioner, who was located some two miles south of Bluffton in

1838, on the farm now owned by David Stundabaker.

The first epidemic of typhoid fever occurred in the fall and winter of 1845.

The first epidemic of scarlet fever occurred in the latter part of June, 1849.

First case of cholera (Asiatic), August 9, 1849, imported from Huntington, Indiana.

First epidemic of measles in September, 1849.

First case of small pox in June, 1854, at Bluffton.

First epidemic of diphtheria in June, 1855.

The first and only colored child born in the county was that of John Waterman's, a colored barber, who resided in a small dwelling north of the Deam block, on Main street, July 20, 1880.

WELLS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

BY G. E. FULTON.

The Wells County Medical Society was organized April 9, 1878, with the following physicians as its officers: C. T. Melsheimer, President; T. H. Crosbie, Secretary; Theo. Horton, Treasurer; B. F. Cummins, W. R. S. Clark and L. A. Spaulding, Censors. A constitution and by-laws were framed and adopted and such articles of incorporation were filed and recorded within the records of Wells County. The organization adopted the code of ethics of the American Medical Association, and is auxiliary to the Indiana State Medical Society, to which it sends at each annual meeting delegates to represent the county society, who are thereby entitled to a voice in all the deliberations of that body.

The object of this society is to provide an organization through which the "regular physicians" of the county may be united in one professional fraternity for the purpose of

giving frequent and decided expression of the views and objects of the medical profession; to develop more efficient means than we have had hitherto for cultivating and raising to a higher plane the standard of medical knowledge; for exciting and encouraging emulation and unity of purpose among the members; for enlightening and directing public opinion in reference to the duties, responsibilities and requirements of medical men; and for the promotion of all measures calculated to ameliorate the suffering and to improve the health and protect the lives of the community.

The society does not embody a large membership, there being an average of from thirteen to fifteen members, owing to deaths, removals, etc. Being composed of the leading physicians of the county it is as live and active, according to its numbers, as any like organization in the State.

The meetings of the society are held in Bluffton on the second Tuesday of each month. A standing invitation to attend each meeting is always gratuitously published by the press of Bluffton to all who may desire an examination and the advice of the members free, in response to which numerous persons from all parts of the county attend the meetings and embrace the opportunity of benefits tendered. A prominent feature is the preparation and reading of original papers or essays on subjects pertaining to the science of medicine by the members in turns as their names occur on the roll in alphabetical order. Following the delivery of such papers is a rigid discussion, approving or disapproving the respective merits of each.

Every organization, like every household, has its visitations of gloom—days when the sun does not rise to shine on the surroundings just as it did before—here we pause, and drop the sympathetic tear in memory of those

who on earth have applied their last healing unction!!

Two of the charter members have passed away by death.

Dr. T. H. Crosbie was born April 2, 1818, in Washington County, Pennsylvania, died February 21, 1883, in Bluffton, Indiana. When four years old he moved to Wayne County, Ohio, where he remained until 1848, when he settled in the practice of medicine in Bluffton, Indiana. In October, 1861, he entered the Forty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers as a private, but was soon appointed Hospital Steward, and afterward Assistant Surgeon of the regiment, from which position he was honorably discharged in December, 1864.

Dr. Crosbie was a graduate of Willoughby Medical College; was a man of few words, but a close student and a careful and successful practitioner. He was a member of this society from its earliest date until his death.

Dr. W. R. S. Clark was born in 1820, and died July 20, 1882, in Bluffton, Indiana. He took his literary course in Kenyon and Western Reserve Colleges, of Ohio, graduating from the latter. He began the study of medicine with his father in 1837, and

graduated at Willoughby Medical College, Ohio, in 1842. He practiced medicine in Grafton, Litchfield, Ashland and Bucyrus, Ohio, and entered the army in 1861 as Assistant Surgeon of the Twenty-fourth Ohio, and was mustered out in 1864 as Surgeon of the Sixty-fourth Ohio. In 1865 he engaged in the drug business in Des Moines, Iowa, and in 1873 removed to Bluffton, Indiana, and practiced up to near his death.

Dr. Clark was first married to Miss Frances C. Parsons, of Edinburg, Ohio, who died in 1862, having lost her two children by death. In June, 1865, he married Mrs. Adeline Slanker. He was an active member of this society from its formation until his death.

It is earnestly hoped that the future of this society will be marked by its keeping abreast with whatever progress flows from the fountains of wisdom in the medical world, and that the afflicted may continue to come and drink thereof and be healed.

The present officers of the society are as follows: L. A. Spalding, President; G. E. Fulton, Secretary; M. N. Newman, Treasurer; C. T. Melsheimer, L. Mason and J. W. Cruin, Censors.





THE PRESS.

THE people of Wells County have had a local paper ever since the year 1847. In that year the first newspaper in the county was established, by Thomas Smith, a Mexican war veteran. The paper was Democratic, and named the *Republican Bugle*. It was, of course, a small sheet, was printed in large type, on a Ramage (wooden) press, but being started at a premature stage of the settlement of the country, it failed to receive sufficient support, and was suspended after an existence of about two years. Probably every village in the Great West has been the scene of such premature newspaper enterprises. From this paper we have gleaned a few interesting items, which we have incorporated in the political chapter, and under the head of Bluffton. Early papers, however, gave but very little local news. It was not the fashion

then to give apparently small items of matters near home. Mr. Smith died in April, 1850.

BLUFFTON BANNER.

This has always been the chief and the official paper of the county, being Democratic in politics. It was established in 1850, the second paper in the county, and practically the successor of the *Bugle*, the first editors and proprietors being Samuel G. Upton and Lewis S. Grove. The paper has passed through many hands, namely, in order: T. J. McDowell, George McDowell, James Gerry Smith, D. J. Callen and T. B. Gutelius, J. H. Smith, Theodore Horton & Co., J. G. Smith again, William J. Craig (September 15, 1870), Homer L. Martin, E. A. K. Hackett, Martin & Roth (1881), Samuel S. Roth, Sturgis, Gorrell & Gorrell (E. Y. Sturgis, Dr. A. G. Gorrell and J. J. Gorrell), and lastly, E. Y. Sturgis alone, since August 1, 1884. The paper was enlarged June 9, 1881, and is now a nine-column folio, faithful in giving the news, and honest in criticism.

Mr. Craig also served for eight years as

clerk of the court, and while in that position he became interested in the Narrow Gauge Railroad, was appointed its receiver, which position he resigned, and took charge of the famous Indianapolis *Sentinel*. A specimen of his editorial wit is given toward the conclusion of this chapter.

Mr. Hackett, also one of the ablest editors of the *Banner*, was from Pennsylvania, a practical printer, and a newspaper man. Although he had but little means, he conducted the paper with success. On leaving this position, he took charge of the Fort Wayne *Sentinel*, when that paper was losing money, and raised it also upon a peculiarly successful basis.

THE BLUFFTON WEEKLY CHRONICLE.

Under this head it will probably be best briefly to notice first what may be considered practically the line of predecessors of the *Chronicle*; and the first was the *People's Press*, Republican in politics, established in 1855, by a company consisting of John L. Wilson and Michael Karns. The first editors were Mr. Knox, James Bramagem and J. J. Gorrell. In 1857 Mr. Nelson Kellogg took charge, and continued up to 1861, with Messrs. Bixler & F. N. Kellogg as proprietors a part of that time. During the first year of the war the name was changed to *Wells County Union*, with W. J. Bright as editor. He was followed, after a suspension, by Cephas Hoyt and J. H. Smith. In 1866 it became the *Wells County Standard*, with James Sewell, editor. He was succeeded by A. Colton and J. Sewell, and in 1869 it became the *Wells County Chronicle*, with S. Davenport as editor. In May, 1873, the paper was again suspended for a time, and then revived by J. W. Ruckman, who in 1877 sold to J. F. Pierson, and he to C. A. Arnold. Since 1878 Mr. George Arnold and his son Charles have been editors and proprietors. During

the proprietorship of the present incumbents the paper has been greatly enlarged and improved, and is a nine-column folio, uncompromisingly Republican in politics, and has assumed a position in the front ranks of local journalism, and commands an influence second to none in the county. Its circulation is constantly increasing, and it is highly appreciated by its patrons.

WELLS COUNTY TIMES.

This was established in 1878 as a Green-back paper, by James Gerry Smith, previously noticed. It was a four-column quarto. In January, 1881, it was taken by W. P. McMahon, who changed it to a seven-column folio, and afterward to a five-column quarto, and for a time issued a daily in connection with it, and continued to conduct it as a green-back organ until September 10, 1882, when Frank T. Waring, a resident of Bluffton, purchased it. Next it was for three or four months owned by the *Times* Publishing Company, and managed by John Studabaker, as a Prohibition paper. January 1, 1886, Mr. A. S. Roberts, a young, smart man from South Bend, assumed control and conducted the paper simply as a newspaper, independent in politics, until March, 1887, when he sold out to William F. Clark, Sr., and William F. Clark, Jr., from Michigan.

Mr. Roberts was born in Wabash, Indiana, in 1864, graduated at a Methodist Episcopal college in 1883, attended De Pauw University about fourteen months, learned the trade of printing when young, and has continued therein since his school days. Was with his father, Rev. W. W. Roberts, a Methodist minister, on the *Indiana Phalanx*, at Indianapolis, and came from there to Bluffton.

INDIANA EAGLE.

The Messrs. Clark came very highly recommended, and their work so far corroborates

that reputation. They have changed the name of the *Wells County Times* to *Indiana Bugle*, its policy to Prohibition, and enlarged its geographical range, being the only Prohibition paper in this Congressional District. Volume 1, Number 1, was the number for March 10, 1887.

PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

This ambitious little advocate of the rights of labor, published weekly in the Williamson Block at Bluffton, was established by William Patriek McMahon. He has traveled considerably in Canada and in several States and Territories, has had much experience with men, and with that vim that is characteristic of the Irish nationality, permitted to have free play in this land of opportunity, he will make a mark in the world not easily erased.

CUTE.

This is a lively little juvenile weekly, started in the autumn of 1886, and edited and published by J. M. Park, a bright lad. Special attention is paid to the school children, their "compositions" being printed therein. The paper deserves a thorough patronage in this locality. Office in the basement of McFarren's Block.

Several other papers have had short lives in this county, as the *Wells County Daily Democrat*, which lived but for a day, the *Wells County Telephone* at Ossian, etc.

IGNORANT OF SUNDAY.

As a small but interesting item of history, and also as a specimen of editorial wit in Wells and Adams counties, promised on a preceding page, we give here, as good a place perhaps as elsewhere, the following instance:

About nine o'clock on the morning of Sunday, November 5, 1871, when all the respectable people of Bluffton were either vending their way to church or remaining

quietly at home, there might be seen a wagon and team slowly approaching the city from the east. In the wagon were an elderly lady and a lad about twenty years of age, with several bags of wheat, a grist of corn and buckwheat, and a considerable quantity of butter, on their way to mill and market. On arriving in town both mother and son were astonished to find that Bluffton merchants were such sluggards as to fail to open their establishments by nine o'clock. Their astonishment was increased when they were informed that it was Sunday, and that our people rested on that day.

"Well, I declare," exclaimed the woman, "it seems to me I *do* recollect hearing of Sunday when I was a little girl; but you know I was very young when we came to Adams County, and, never being reminded of it, it is not strange that I should forget all about civilized rules."

The Bluffton *Banner*, W. J. Craig, editor, after giving the above account, added the reflection: "Is it possible that Adams County is so far removed from civilization that the people there do not know when Sunday arrives? No wonder they voted against the east and west railroad."

Of course this fling at Adams County was too much for the *Decatur Eagle* to let pass unrebuked. Accordingly, in a subsequent number of the paper, he reported as follows: "Simply to gratify our curiosity and love of adventure, we determined to hunt up the heroine of Craig's [editor of the *Banner*] story. After considerable trouble, our perseverance was rewarded with a sight of the old lady's domicile, but she had departed. Inquiry revealed the fact that the building of our railroad, the visit of a Bible agent, and several similar annoyances, had induced her to emigrate. She had taken up her abode with her sister in the backwoods of Wells County,

remote from the annoyances of a higher civilization. In fact, she was in the act of moving when she became the subject of the *Banner* man's notice.

"Desirous of learning more of her eventful history (which was, perhaps, stimulated by a desire of knowing more of the Darwinian theory of development), we visited her new retreat, found her uncommunicative, but her sister sufficiently garrulous. The latter volunteered the information that she was 'borned, raised an' 'lowed to die on this yere spot.' Then she asked, 'Be you one of these yere town fullers?' We said 'Yes.' 'I thort so,' said she, and continued: 'Tryin' to git women to vote in town, hain't ye? We don't 'low to work the roads for you ones if we *do* vote. Stranger, we've had a heap o' trouble this summer on 'count of Betsy Jane. Last spring a low down ornery cuss, a printer man from Bluffton, got to hankerin' arter Betsy Jane, an' Betsy Jane she got to hankerin' arter him. Well, stranger, I thort we had tronble when Jake died; then the twins follered; but it war nothin' 'side of the idea of Betsy Jane marryin' that feller. But as she got to pinin' arter that an' gittin' thinner 'n a shadder, I coneluded to let him have her, but when he went and put her aunt Berlinder, my only sister, in the papers, like she war no better'n a heathen Chinee, then, stranger, it war impossible. He shouldn't have Betsy Jane if it war the death of the hull family.'"

Thus the *Banner* rejoined: "A mystery so dark as the above could not remain un-

solved. Accordingly we started in search, and after reaching French Township, Adams County, we were unable to get close enough to any one to make inquiries. When we obtained a glimpse of a native and attempted to approach within speaking distance, he would rapidly swim to a distant stump and perch upon it in the greatest fear and bewilderment. When we made a second attempt to approach, he would wiggle his fins, shake his moss-covered sides, show his teeth and beat a hasty retreat to a more distant place of supposed safety. Knowing that 'music hath charms to soothe the savage breast,' we had taken the precaution to borrow and take with us one of the wind instruments of our cornet band. Wading back to the buggy, we took the instrument and sounded it. It so nearly resembled a locomotive whistle that the denizens verily believed it was one, and all over French Township there was a general buzzing of fins, and straightway every inhabitant went for his hole in the ground. All was silence. Several hours' search failed to discover one of those terrified beings.

"Sadly we sought our vehicle, and kept the road. After proceeding about a mile, we came across a lonely tent, upon which was written, with charcoal, 'BERLINDER—Gone to Wells County in search of the light of day.'

"We are glad the *Eagle* excepts us from the alleged heathenism of this county, and that the 'printer man' referred to belongs to the establishment across the street."





MISCELLANEOUS.

AGRICULTURAL.



BY reference to the first chapter in this work, the reader will see what "foundation" there is in Wells County for agricultural prosperity. A large portion of the surface is a rich clay or loam, and the rest a gravelly loam. The gravel, or drift, lies at various depths from the surface down to many feet, constituting a system of under-drainage for most of the land. Every section of land is either tillable now, or in a short time will be made so, by drainage into the respective water-courses. The swamps are nearly all high above the creeks and rivers, and in course of time will be effectively drained.

Previous to June 1, 1882, there had been

240 miles of public ditching done. At that date a new system was begun, under a new impetus, and by November 1, 1883—seven-teen months—11,000 acres were effectually supplied with ditches, at a cost of only \$30,000—not quite \$3 to the acre. It is estimated that there is now between 1,300 and 1,400 miles of ditching in the county, besides many miles of road graveled; and work in both these lines is progressing more rapidly than ever before. The cost of graveling a road is about \$1,700 per mile.

The "Wells County Agricultural Society" was first organized in 1853, with Rev. D. H. Drummond as president, who continued in that position until the career of the society was interrupted by the great civil war. Mr. Drummond has since died, at his residence near Bluffton. During his time the society held annual fairs, all of which were successful. In 1867 the society was reorganized, with John McFadden as president, and successful annual exhibitions were held until

1882, when the expenses became so great as to prevent the association from awarding premiums, and thus killed the interest in these best holidays of the year. By the phrase "successful fair," we mean that the exhibits were generally good and the receipts liberal. Some departments of agriculture, horticulture and stock-raising would be comparatively poor some seasons, while the majority were excellent, and the quality varied much from year to year. The fair of 1879 was particularly exciting, as there was a "baby show," and premiums were awarded to Mrs. Joseph Lipkey, Mrs. J. J. Todd, Mrs. William Grooms, Mrs. Kittie Smith and Mrs. William Ernst, in the order here named.

Eminent men from abroad were often engaged to deliver an address, among them "Blue Jeans" William, Governor at the time (1873), and B. F. Butler, in 1880, etc.; but when the last-named was here, on Thursday of the fair, he seemed to draw more away from the fair-ground than to it. In 1880 the Presidential campaign interfered seriously with public interest in agricultural and stock exhibits, and the two succeeding years the crops were cut short, and thus caused the interest to wane still more.

Succeeding Mr. McFadden as president of the Agricultural Society were Joseph C. Silver, Abram W. Johnson, Levi Mock, John T. Glass, John Shoemaker, Nathaniel Greenfield and Branson Weaver, each a term of two years except Mr. Glass, whose term was only one year. Messrs. Greenfield and James R. Bennett have been especially identified with the interests of the society from the beginning.

The old fair-ground was sold for a park, but the latter feature has been neglected. There is also a good stone quarry there, but it is not now worked. The "park" is now a

farm. Situation, across the river northeast of Bluffton.

A "Short-horn Breeders' Association" was organized September 11, 1886, with Dr. John C. Fulton, of Murray, as President; Branson Weaver, Vice-President; David D. Studabaker, Treasurer, and David T. Smith, Secretary. Total membership (March, 1887) thirty, all but two being residents of Wells County. They meet the last Saturday of each month, and have arranged for an exhibition and sale of stock the second Tuesday and Wednesday of June, 1887, at Bluffton.

When the Patrons of Husbandry took the country in 1870 they afterward, of course, "took in" Wells County in their march, organizing granges in every part of the county, two or three of which are yet in successful operation, at Five Points, Rockford, etc. Several prominent citizens in Bluffton were members of the Bluffton grange, as E. Y. Sturgis and wife, William J. Craig and wife, George E. Gardiner and wife, S. M. Dailey, J. G. Smith and others. At one time during an exciting political campaign, one of the parties undertook to work in the Bluffton grange in its own interest, but was thwarted. It caused some trouble, raising a question of jurisdiction between the grange in the city and that in the country near by, which had to be settled by an appeal to the State grange officer. The interests of this movement are thought to have been greatly damaged by an effort to establish and conduct co-operative stores, which proved abortive.

To give some idea of the progress which Wells County has made in her agricultural developments, we give here the latest census report, that of 1884:

Wheat, 28,272 acres, 370,507 bushels; corn, 34,607 acres, 821,585 bushels; oats, 7,727 acres, 253,921 bushels; potatoes, 89,390 bushels; apples, 38,500 bushels; timo-

thy, 16,289 acres, 25,880 tons; clover, 10,689 acres, 15,227 tons; timber land, 66,260 acres; newly-cleared land, 2,039 acres; idle plowed land, 8,144 acres; blue and other wild grass, 5,741 acres; number of horses, 6,679; mules, 263; milch cows, 5,622; total cattle, 13,149; stock hogs, 26,720; fattened hogs, 26,672; weight 5,062,348 pounds; sheep, 12,045; lambs, 3,888; gallons of milk, 2,111,862; pounds of butter, 405,663; pounds of cheese, 106,603; wool clip, 45,358 pounds, which had averaged about 60,000 pounds for the five preceding years.

But it must be borne in mind that the official census generally falls far short of giving the full amount.

As to orchards, it must be confessed that they are gradually succumbing to modern diseases and insects.

RAILROADS.

In introducing this subject we may notice briefly the only plank road ever built in this county, before the day of railroads.

As long ago as 1848, we see by reference to the *Republican Bugle*, now in the possession of Dr. Melsheimer, a movement was set on foot for the laying of a plank road from Bluffton to Fort Wayne, the *entrepot* for this section of the country. The *Bugle* for January 6, 1849, gives an account of a public meeting held at the court-house in Fort Wayne, December 16 previous, for the purpose of appointing delegates to attend the plank-road convention at Bluffton on the 19th. Twelve delegates were appointed, but only the following appeared at the convention: Hugh McCulloch (afterward a member of President Johnson's cabinet), P. Hoagland, S. Edsall, P. P. Bailey, H. B. Reed, C. W. Aylsworth and S. C. Freeman. The mere attendance of these men at the convention was sufficient proof of their zeal

in the cause, for a trip from Fort Wayne to Bluffton those times, and especially at that season, was fraught with great difficulties. In some places the roads surpassed description. It was really amusing to see one of the horses walk on a pole and step on stumps, while another would be standing still with his head stuck into the mud up to his eyes, apparently meditating whether it were better to give up or make another effort to get out. Poor Hamlet!

On arrival at Bluffton the delegates found some of the citizens in favor of a plank road to Fort Wayne, and some opposed, favoring a railroad instead; but the latter were readily convinced that a railroad was impracticable at that early day, and joined the others in the plank-road enterprise. They combined their forces and pledged themselves to build ten miles of the road, and, if possible, to the county line.

We have not space here to give all the particulars that followed. Suffice it to say that the road was planked from Bluffton to Fort Wayne between 1852 and 1856, except in some places it was graveled only, kept in repair for a number of years, toll paid on it, and then it was suffered to run down.

As early as 1840 to 1850 railroad projects were talked of, various routes proposed, etc., but the people here were too poor to build them, and Eastern capital was busier with the main lines running east and west, north of us.

Fort Wayne, Vincennes & Louisville.—The route for this line, popularly known as the "Muncie Railroad," was surveyed through this county as early as 1852; but, before the work of construction actually commenced, the war came on and interrupted all railroad enterprises. In looking over the old files of the Bluffton newspapers, one constantly meets with the characteristic, universal wail of

"O how long, how long shall we have to wait for those Eastern men to go ahead and build the railroad, as they have encouraged us to believe they would," interspersed with a setting forth of the advantages of a railroad "through this point" and to a certain other point beyond us, and with exhortations to the people to wake up and take an interest in it, and with news of some railroad meeting somewhere, or interview with some railroad magnate at some distant point, where some encouragement was contingently expressed. These contingencies were generally some complications with other railroad companies or rights of way or local aid. The same may be said of the "Narrow Gauge" route.

In 1867-'68 Messrs. Hugh Dougherty, John Studabaker and others took the Muncie route in hand and soon had the road built. They first signed bonds to the amount of \$100,000, then canvassed the county for support, finally securing the endorsement of the board of county commissioners, who made an appropriation of the above amount. The work of construction then went rapidly on to completion.

As the track was being laid south from Fort Wayne, on approaching the county line, great excitement prevailed in Bluffton, and a pleasant strife was indulged in for being the first to lay a tie within the limits of Wells County.

On Tuesday, October 12, 1869, a great procession, with a band of music, cannon, etc., went with wagons to the point, where a dinner was enjoyed, etc., and when the critical moment arrived, Hon. Newton Burwell and J. Gerry Smith (the *Banner* editor) carried a tie to the county line, or a little south of it as they thought, and dropped it in place. Next came W. B. Wolfe and J. J. Todd with a tie and laid it, claiming that Burwell & Smith's tie was not far enough

south to be in Wells County. Many others also laid ties, continuing for several rods, amid music and cheers and roaring of cannon indescribable.

By previous agreement, the honor of driving the first two spikes was conferred upon Colonel Hall, of Bluffton, and James Metts, of Murray. This occurred at half past three o'clock in the afternoon. Similar scenes occurred November 10 following, as the track reached Bluffton, at 11:30 A. M., where the first spikes were driven by John Studabaker, then the oldest citizen, and by William Bluffton Miller, the eldest male child born in this town. Lively addresses were delivered by Levi Mock (then mayor), J. J. Todd, T. W. Wilson and others, a free dinner was given in Studabaker's new warehouse, silver cornet bands played, everybody shouted, and the "Little Giant" cannon fairly split its throat in endeavoring to overtop the noise of the crowd. Indeed, it blew itself all to pieces, knocking even the wheels of its carriage to splinters, and yet, providentially, no one was killed, and but one or two injured!

It should be stated, before closing, that John Studabaker, above referred to, was for a time a director of this road, and W. W. Worthington, of Fort Wayne, has been superintendent nearly from the beginning, under whose management the line is well conducted. Mr. Dougherty continued to aid the road on its southward extension, until connection was made at Connersville with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton road. For a time the name was the "Fort Wayne, Muncie & Cincinnati Railroad."

The capital stock of this road is now \$4,000,000. In Wells County there are now 24.95 miles of track, assessed at \$3,500 per mile, besides side-track, and \$800 per mile for rolling stock. The line has generally

yielded dividends, but of course not so large as the east and west lines.

Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City.—As just intimated, an east-and-west line of railroad has ever been thought to be the greatest desideratum in respect to thoroughfares. Accordingly, a movement was set on foot, immediately after the completion of the Muncie Railroad, for the building a narrow-gauge railroad running from Toledo to some western metropolis, through Wells County, under the impression that such a road could be more cheaply built, and more cheaply operated after it was built. The long-delaying, soul-sickening hide-and-seek, now-you-see-it-and-now-you-don't performances of various supposed capitalists, including the presidents (?), "Colonel" Thomas S. Sprague, and others, have characterized the early history of this line to an unusual extent. The numerous chameleon changes and skillful prestidigitations of the various "companies," building or proposing to build the various links between Toledo and the Great West, generally are too tedious to relate here, and in fact uncalled for. Even the names of the routes are too numerous to catalogue here, the most prominent of which have been the Toledo, Cincinnati & St. Louis," and for short the "Narrow-Gauge Railroad." The links which now constitute it have also had various names.

May we be pardoned for relating, in this connection, what took place in a Bluffton Sunday-school, illustrating the long and intensely felt desire of the citizens to have this line of road hurried up? It is related that a Sunday-school teacher had a boy in her class who had not failed in his penny contribution for more than a year; and when he was found empty-handed one Sunday, his teacher observed, "Why, Johnny, did you forget your penny to-day?" "No, ma'am,"

he humbly replied, "but father says the Narrow-Gauge Railroad will do this town more good than any fourteen Sunday-schools; and I am going to chuck my coppers into that enterprise for the next few weeks." "Won't the heatthen miss your pennies?" she asked. "I suppose they will; but we've got to come right down for this road or this town is busted."

Well, to condense the history of Wells County's connection with this road into a few lines, let it be sufficient to say that Messrs. Hugh Dougherty, James Crosby, W. J. Craig, clerk of the Wells County court at that time, and others of other distant points, took hold of the enterprise in 18—, and, under the new law enabling townships to vote aid or take stock, raised the money on their individual credit, and soon built the road from the State line to Warren, the first train reaching Bluffton in August, 1879.

The present name of this road, given at the head of this section, was adopted by the new company last year, and it is determined now to widen the track to the standard gauge, run through trains to Kansas City, and bring the whole line up to first-class condition. It has already been greatly improved within the last few months. It has fifteen miles of track in Wells County, assessed at \$2,000 per mile, and is also assessed at \$625 per mile for rolling stock, and \$550 for improvements and right of way.

Chicago & Atlantic.—This line was proposed about 1872. The next year Wells County voted by 247 majority for aid to this road, but before it had the opportunity to repeat the old history of hope-deferring hide-and-seek with other companies, local aid and links, etc., etc., a solid company of Eastern capitalists seized it and pushed it through, completing it from Marion, Ohio, to Chicago. Instead, however, of passing through Bluff-

ton, as the citizens here hoped, it struck an independent air line from Decatur to Huntington, leaving our county seat about five miles to the south. Commenced business with through trains in July, 1883.

The Chicago & Atlantic connects at Marion, Ohio, with the New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio for the Atlantic seaboard. In Wells County it has 13.80 miles of track, exclusive of sidings, assessed at \$8,000 per mile; rolling stock, \$2,500 per mile; improvements and right of way in the county, \$400.

Besides the above roads there are two or three other companies organized to build railroads through Wells County; as, the "Bluffton & Logansport" line, to be a link connecting with a line from Wheeling, West Virginia; and the "Bluffton, Kokomo & Southwestern, with a directory consisting of such eminent names as Robert G. Ingersoll, Joseph E. McDonald, James M. Quigley, Sylvester H. Kneeland, Francis M. Russ, etc., etc.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The first court-house was situated on the west side of Main street, between Market and Wabash streets. It was built of square hewn logs, was two stories high, the first floor being occupied for courts and all sorts of meetings, and the upper by one or two county offices that were in existence at that time.

June 18, 1838, the commissioners ordered that John R. Greer, county agent, should advertise for the letting and building of a court-house in Bluffton, on the first day of August next. Specifications: The house to be built of hewn logs, 18x24 feet, two stories high, and covered with three-foot boards, nailed on; floor to be oak or ash; with six twelve-light windows, four below and two above, and stairs to upper room. Also one jail, of hewn timber one foot square, 18x20 feet, two stories high.

These structures were accordingly built, and were therefore very similar in appearance. They were erected by David Whiteman, an old farmer residing out in the country a few miles. The jail was situated some twenty rods to the south, on the southwest corner of the lot, where the present court-house now stands. Both these buildings were destroyed by fire many years ago.

April 24, 1843, the board of commissioners contracted with Almon Case for the construction of the second and present court-house, at \$5,000. He sold the contract to George W. Webster, of Marion, Indiana, who completed the structure in 1845; it was accepted by the board October 4, that year, and at the time it was one of the finest court-houses in Northern Indiana; but the times have now far outgrown it. It is built of brick manufactured near by, fronts the east, with four large, tall columns in front, characteristic of the age in which it was built, is two stories high, the lower for court and the upper for county offices; but the upper story is partly abandoned. The county offices are in smaller brick buildings adjoining or on the premises. The citizens wish they felt able to erect a new structure in keeping with the demands of the county work.

About the years 1855-56, a brick jail was built a little south of the court-house, but it is now temporarily occupied by some of the county offices.

The third and present jail and sheriff's residence was built in 1880, at a cost of \$21,400, and is a fine structure. Its extreme dimensions are 44x80 feet, and 75 feet from the ground to the top of the spire; two stories high, mansard roof, of slate, cellar throughout, walls of brick, and the exterior of the French renaissance style is very attractive. Prison wall lined with one-fourth inch boiler iron. It is situated one square southwest of the court-

house. Jonathan P. Smith, of Bluffton, contractor, and E. J. Hodgson, of Indianapolis, architect.

The infirmary is a few miles southeast of Bluffton, on the southwest quarter of section 23, Harrison Township. The farm, comprising 156 acres, was purchased in 1864; 125 acres are in cultivation. The building is a new, substantial brick edifice, of modern style, completed in 1875, at a cost of about \$16,000, and will accommodate eighty persons. The value of the building and farm is estimated at about \$28,000. Average number of inmates, forty to fifty. Present superintendent, Amos Rowe, with a salary of \$500 per annum.

The County Library, comprising about 800 volumes, is sustained by the interest accruing from the fund established by setting apart ten per cent. of the proceeds of the original sale of lots in the Bluffton plat. The library is at present kept in the office of the county surveyor, and is in his charge. The use of the books is free to the public.

EDUCATION.

The first school in Wells County, as already mentioned, was taught by Jesse B. McGrew, in 1837, on the farm of Adam Miller, above Bluffton, on Six-mile Creek, on the south part of section 11, Harrison Township. Another school, one of the earliest if not the second, was taught on a place adjoining the above, where David Powell's old tannery building now is, in a log house 11x18 feet, with clapboards held on by weight-poles, seats arranged in a semi-circular form around the fire-place, and writing desks of hewn slabs pinned to the wall. In 1841 a school-house was built on the land of William Studabaker, north of Bluffton. It had a stove. Charles Grimes, a good teacher, taught the first school here, for \$30 to \$38 per

term of seventy-eight days. After this Lewis Prillaman and Abraham Studabaker taught at the same place. In 1843 a school-house was erected on the land of Thomas W. Van Horn, about four miles above Bluffton, where the teachers were Henry Prillaman, John H. Moore and Ellison Covert.

All these early schools were supported by private subscription, and were good schools.

Other early teachers were Charles F. Cruikshank, Absalom Brewster, Asa Coho, George C. Fellows, James Turner, W. P. Mann, Henry Atchinson and James Ferguson. Ann Maria Fields, prior to 1850, taught school in a house in the rear of T. L. Wisner's present residence; and she often used to say that she had to use "birch tea" in order to preserve the peace.

For many years now there has not been a log school-house in the county.

The first school commissioner, Judge W. H. Parmalee, was an energetic, efficient officer. He received \$238.79 for school purposes, but how the money was obtained the records do not show.

Such were the beginnings. Now let us glance at the stage of educational work the people of Wells County have attained. There are now in the county 6,763 children of school age, 3,554 males and 3,209 females; fifty-one brick school-houses, and fifty-seven frame, which, with the apparatus, furniture and grounds, are valued at \$105,185; total number of pupils enrolled, 5,810, and average daily attendance, 4,093; total amount of tuition funds July 31, 1886, \$51,234.55. The total indebtedness of the respective schools of the county for the year ending at the above date was \$668.60.

Mr. Ernst, the present county superintendent, publishes annually a manual of the schools, comprising the names and postoffice address of the members of the county board

of education, an outline of the Indiana school system, name and locality of the State educational institutions, schedule of school officers, an account of the permanent school funds of the State, course of study, calendar of school officers' duties, rules for teachers and pupils, grade outfit, text books adopted by the county board, enumeration of school children by townships, statistics of school property, tuition funds by townships and the roll of teachers.

Teachers' institutes have been held annually or oftener since about the year 1852, and since 1875 normals of six to ten weeks' duration have been held during the summer at Bluffton, conducted by the county superintendent.

TEMPERANCE.

Reference has already been made to the political temperance movement of 1874-'75, when the "crusade" wave struck Wells County, but not in the "Mother Stewart" form; it was in a mild political form. Temperance lectures and signing of temperance pledges have been in vogue here from earliest day, but there have been three great movements. The first is the one we have just alluded to, when among the leaders were Newton Burwell, William Perdue, Dr. J. C. Fulton, John Alexander, John Byall, A. T. Place, Jonathan Lowery, A. N. Coddington, William Blossom, James S. Williams, Morrison R. Walker, Isaac Marshall, Charles Ellingham, Allison Fulton, John S. Goodin, D. K. Hanna, D. H. Griffith, Elias Rinear, B. E. Merriman, John Chalfant, Dr. Sewell, William Stobie and others. The animus of this movement was to operate through statutory law, as well as by moral suasion.

On the other hand, on a subsequent occasion, in June, 1877, George A. Barry, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, visited Bluffton, representing the moral suasion principle on

the Murphy plan, when over 1,800 signed the pledge, 300 of whom had been drunkards or drinking men. To secure the permanency of this revival a society was organized, with William Blackstone for president; Robert R. Harvey, recording secretary; Frank T. Waring, corresponding secretary; and an executive committee consisting of Hugh Dougherty, W. W. Wisell, W. J. Craig, George E. Gardiner and Elza H. Justus. It was called the Bluffton Temperance Union.

As a third revival, the old plan of legal prohibition is looming up again, encouraged by its success in other States and localities, and by the tremendous increase of the prohibition vote on the national ticket from 1880 to 1884, a leap from 11,600 to 160,000 in the United States. The labor party, however, especially in the cities, are at present drawing heavily from the prohibition element. The plan in Wells County is to operate through the old parties first, and, that failing, then strike out independently.

CENSUS.

The total population of Wells County, in 1860, was 10,844; 1870, 13,585; 1880, 18,442. As it is still increasing, it must be over 20,000 by this time. Number of males in 1880, 9,547; females, 8,895; number of males of military age (eighteen to forty-four inclusive), 3,821; males over twenty-one (voting population), 4,540.

Nativity: American, 17,851; foreign, 591. Of the American-born Indiana furnishes 11,879; Ohio, 3,958; Pennsylvania, 991; New York, 136; Illinois, 86; Kentucky, 83. Of the foreign-born, Germany supplies 206; Ireland, 133; England and Wales, 55; Scotland, 26; British America, 16; France, 1; Sweden and Norway, 1.

The population by townships in 1880 was: Chester, 1,668; Harrison, 43,089 (including

Bluffton, with 2,354, and Vera Cruz with 260); Jackson, 1,496; Jefferson, 2,262; Lancaster, 1,806; Liberty, 1,752; Nottingham, 2,057; Rock Creek, 1,412, and Union, 1,600.

The assessment of real and personal property in 1884 was: 231,098 acres of land in the county, valued at \$3,177,635; improvements, \$795,005; lots, \$263,545; improvements, \$374,615; Personal property, \$1,568,165, polls, 3,497. Total value of taxable property, \$6,178,865.

Agricultural statistics are given under the head "Agricultural."

OTHER ITEMS.

In the autumn of 1871, when devastating fires raged so furiously throughout Michigan, Wisconsin and Chicago, similar destruction from the same source was witnessed throughout Wells County. From October 3 to 10 the woods were on fire in many places, often breaking over into the treasured property of the farmer or the lumberman. Fences, barns, hay, lumber-yards, etc., were burned in

considerable numbers, and it was only with great difficulty that many residences were successfully protected. Everything combustible had been drying and "seasoning" so long and so thoroughly that the copious rain of the morning of the 10th put only an apparent or temporary stop to the progress of the consuming element, for in a few days it broke out again and did immense damage, until fields, roads and water-courses put a final check to its sway.

March 20, 1886, two and three miles south and west of Bluffton, a violent wind demolished houses, barns and timber in great quantities. It tore *up* jam piles, tore *down* large oak trees, and switched every movable object around like straws. Happily, no lives were lost, but many had a very narrow escape, with small bruises. Probably the most violent storm that ever visited Wells County.

In 1873 a wall map of Wells County, four feet by five, was published by a Philadelphia firm. On one corner is a map of Bluffton.





BLUFFTON.



OME we now to the central point of our history, the beautiful city on the bluffs, named from its situation. The name was suggested by R. C. Bennett, Sr., not because the bluffs here are particularly high, abrupt or conspicuous, but merely from the fact that the town is situated on the bluff side of the river. The name "Bluffton" first appears on the records in 1838.

Under the head "County Government" an account is given of the location of the county seat at this place.

The original plat of Bluffton was surveyed in March, 1838, by John Casebeer, the appointed county surveyor, and James R. Greer, the county agent, laid out 191 lots. The plat was recorded March 23. At the June session following, the county commissioners ordered the agent to begin the sale of lots on the 16th of that month, and to continue from day to day until all were sold. Only the alternate ones, however, were to be sold, and three or four were reserved for Almon Case, in consideration of entertaining visitors at the sale.

It was provided that the purchasers should have the privilege of cutting all timber that might endanger themselves or their property.

The day arriving, the first lot sold for \$92, and others "in like proportion." The sale was said to be very "spirit"-ed, as the records show that Almon Case was allowed \$5 for whisky on that occasion, and James Scott 75 cents for a jug of whisky. This liquor was furnished free to all in attendance, being handed around in a bucket and taken straight. All were more or less intoxicated. License had been granted Mr. Case, for \$15, to keep tavern for one year. This was the first tavern license issued in the county, and in those days a tavern license included the license to retail whisky by the drink. His tavern was succeeded by the "Exchange Hotel," on the southeast corner of Main and Market streets, where it still stands, a characteristic relic of "tavern" days. It was a noted stopping place in the days of stage coaches.

Ten per cent. of the funds derived from the sale of lots was reserved for a county library, which institution is still kept up.

August 16 following the county agent laid out an addition of fifty-six lots, since which time a number of additions have been made.

The next month, John Studabaker, the first merchant in Bluffton, obtained from the commissioners license to sell merchandise. He erected a log pen, with clapboard doors, where Tribolet's clothing store now stands, into which he moved his meager stock. This he bartered, instead of selling for cash, coonskins and furs being the common medium of exchange. Coonskins were practically legal tender. He had no occasion for burglar-proof safes. At about the same time the clerk's office was built, where Bugh's drug-store now stands. These two fabrics then comprised all the improvements on Market street, and the view between them was obstructed by timber of various dimensions, so that strangers had generally to be piloted from one to the other.

In 1840 Bluffton had 225 inhabitants, while the county had 1,822.

The first trustees of Bluffton were Lewis S. Grove, Joseph A. Williams, Engle Starr, William Strode and Nelson Kellogg. The last named, who is still a resident of the place, was elected president, and Grove was appointed clerk.

Bluffton was incorporated February 12, 1851, since which time the following have acted as

MAYORS.

David Angel, 1851; Samuel Decker, 1852; J. H. Buckles, 1853; C. W. Beardsley, 1854; S. R. Karns, 1855; C. S. Bergan, 1856; J. E. Brown, 1857; J. R. McCleery, 1858; I. A. Godard, 1859; W. R. Ferguson, 1859; Robert Russell, 1860; Newton Burwell, 1861-'64; John McFadden, 1865-'66; C. G. Quick, 1866-'67; N. Kellogg, 1868; Levi Mock, 1869; Levi Mock, 1873-'76; William Blackstone, 1877-'78; David T. Smith, 1879-'80; E. C. Vaughn, 1881-'82; H. L. Martin, 1883; James P. Hale, 1883 to the present.

The clerks have been: Theodore Horton,

1851-'52; N. Kellogg, 1853-'58; T. H. Crosby, 1859; John North, 1873; N. T. Miller, 1874-'80; P. L. Robison, 1881-'83; Benedict Burns, 1883-'86, since which time there has been a vacancy, the place being filled by the mayor.

First councilmen, 1851: Thomas L. Wisner, Bowen Hale, John Eby and C. T. Mel-sheimer; marshal, John Plessinger; treasurer, Erastus K. Bascom; street commissioner, George McDowell.

The municipal year commences with the first of May.

The first ordinances passed by the council after the incorporation in 1851 were:

1. Taxing each family for the first dog 50 cents, and for each additional dog, \$1; also 50 cents on each \$100 of real and personal property, and a poll tax of 50 cents for street improvements.

2. Imposing fines for driving or riding within the corporation faster than a common trot, except when going for a physician; shooting for sport, gambling or disorderly conduct, retailing spirituous liquors in less quantities than a quart without a license from the corporation; selling or giving liquors to minors or drunkards.

From the *Republican Bugle* of 1849 we quote the following local market report, as a curiosity: Wheat, 50 cents; rye, 28 cents; corn, shelled, 25 cents; oats, 19 cents; flaxseed, 56 cents; butter, per pound, 8 cents; ginseng, 25 cents; beeswax, 18 cents; feathers, 25 cents; eggs, per dozen, 5 cents.

For other first things in Bluffton, see the section headed "Beginnings."

Now, to see what advance this town has made, let us glance at its business interests.

The place is beginning to don the style of a city by the erection of fine three-story business blocks, as the Curry, in which are the opera hall, postoffice, etc.; Tribolet's and

McFarren's; the Centennial, built in 1876, and named from its being erected during the centennial year of our national independence; in it are the *Banner* printing office, other offices and stores, etc., and the Hale Block. This and McFarren's Block, the two latest, were erected in 1881. The Centennial was opened with a public entertainment, at which our jolly friend Todd represented himself in dress and manner as a man having lived here a hundred years and witnessed all the changes as they occurred. One of his humorous paragraphs was: "And I remember three men whom, in March, 1776, I saw sitting upon a sycamore log, eating peanuts, near the place where we now are, whilst they discussed the propriety of entering into matrimonial alliances. The result of their deliberations will best be known in the fact that my then youthful but now venerable friends, Hugh Dougherty, John North and F. N. Kellogg, are still living the life of celibacy."

There are two building associations in Bluffton,—the Excelsior, organized in 1883, and the Nonpareil, in 1886. Of the first, George F. McFarren is President, and James P. Hale, Secretary. Of the other, J. J. Todd is President, and John B. Welty, Secretary.

John Studabaker erected his capacious warehouse at the depot in 1869, with two elevators. Size, 40 x 80 feet, and a proportional height. This year he is shipping not less than a half million bushels of grain.

The Exchange Bank is a flourishing institution. In 1856 John Studabaker commenced lending money and selling New York exchange, in connection with his produce business; and in 1863 he, in company with George Arnold, Jeffrey Bliss, Amos Townsend and James Van Emon, organized the First National Bank, with a capital of \$50,000. In 1868 it closed business, and January 1, 1869, the present Exchange Bank was

formed by John and Peter Studabaker and Hugh Dougherty. An incident in its history is worth relating here. Some years ago this bank ordered a remittance of \$5,000 by express from Cincinnati. The package "said to contain" that amount was delivered here by the United States Express Company, but with nothing inside except slips of newspaper. The bank sued the company for recovery, and after one or two adverse decisions finally succeeded in their suit, besides obtaining \$475 as damages.

The Bluffton Woolen Mills were built here many years ago, but were generally unprofitable, except perhaps in the year 1873. In 1879 they were burned, and never afterward rebuilt or succeeded by a similar institution. The loss by the fire was about \$3,500, with no insurance.

The oldest grist-mill in the place is the water and steam mill of the Kenagy Brothers, at the foot of Main street. It was built in 1849, by Williams & Morgan. Since their day it has passed through several hands. It has two run of burrs for wheat, one for corn, and one re-grinder. All custom work. Engine forty-horse power.

J. T. Clayton, on South street, east of Main, was the first to introduce the roller system in Wells County, in the spring of 1886. The mill was erected a number of years before the war, and the present proprietor has had it since 1861. Engine thirty-five-horse power. Capacity, seventy-five barrels of flour per day. Both custom and merchant work.

D. Brown & Son's flouring mill, near the railroad bridge, has two run of burrs for wheat, and one for corn. Generally custom work, running nearly all the days in the year. It was built soon after the war period, since which time it has changed hands several times, the present proprietors recently purchasing C. S. Burgan's interest.

The Bluffton Manufacturing Company, or the Corn-Planter and Washing-Machine Company, of Bluffton, has had a checkered history. It was first formed in February, 1871, for the manufacture of the American Corn-Planter, invented by Samuel Jones, a poor blacksmith of the place, Dr. T. Horton furnishing the capital and the institution known as T. Horton's Planter Factory. In 1874, with twenty-seven workmen, they made 10,000 corn-planters; but Mr. Vandergriff coming in as the chief operating partner, began to substitute elm for ash, and thus caused the enterprise to wane. Next they added the manufacture of the "Western Washer," an excellent style of washing-machine, and drove a profitable business. Two of the partners moving the enterprise to a distant eastern point, on July 13, 1880, T. Horton, W. W. Wisell and W. I. Fitch (foreman for many years) formed a company. They soon found, however, that to retain a hold on the market a rotary corn-planter must be invented, which was done; but trouble arising as to the proprietorship of the patent, the business was placed in the hands of a receiver for settlement, resulting in the sale of the machinery to Wisell & Fitch, who admitted Lee S. Kapp as a partner, rented the old building of T. Horton, assumed the present name, and again went to work, adding to the corn-planter and washing-machine a variety of other household and farm conveniences. In 1885 they moved into the old bending works.

North & McDowell's saw-mill, like the boy's jack-knife, has been kept new by alternate substitution of parts, and is now doing a prosperous business, near the crossing of the railroads. Engine, sixty-horse power. Employ nine hands in the mill and yard, and often ship as many as ten car-loads per week.

Montgomery's saw-mill is a few miles south of the preceding.

W. B. Nimmons, a few rods still farther south, where Market street crosses the railroad, manufactures staves and heading and ships them to New York. The mill was first built on the south side of Market street, for the manufacture of staves only, by several Ohio parties and Mr. Nimmons; since 1873 Mr. Nimmons has been sole proprietor. Fifty horse-power engine, and through the summer season as high as sixty men and boys are employed about the mill and yard.

Jere North, dealer in hard-wood lumber, on Washington street, near the railroad, has a neat two-story brick factory, employs ten to twenty hands, with a forty horse-power engine, and turns out hubs, spokes and lumber in all its branches. Building erected in 1870, by G. W. Breckenridge, of Fort Wayne. In 1876 he sold to J. North & Bro., and since 1884 the present proprietor has been alone in the management of the business.

The McKendry Stave Company (C. Warren and C. A. McKendry) are manufacturers of and dealers in slack-barrel staves and heading, at the junction of South street with the railroad. Mill was established in 1877 by J. E. and C. A. McKendry (father and son), with a seventy-five horse-power engine. In June, 1884, C. Warner formed a partnership with C. A. McKendry, and retained a part of the machinery, while the elder McKendry took the remainder to Muncie. The works here have been enlarged from time to time, and the company employ about thirty-five hands on an average.

Frank Adams, in the same line of business, has recently (December, 1886,) started a mill a few rods farther south, with a forty horse-power engine, and employs about seven hands.

John Dougherty & Co. have their saw-mill at Keystone, and office on Market street near the railroad. They also have a hay-press in

Bluffton, south of the McKendry stave factory, built in 1886, with a capacity of twelve tons, or one car-load, per day.

The Bluffton Shovel-handle Works is a neat little modern institution, erected by Theodore Horton in 1884, and managed by J. H. Keyou, proprietor of the stock. Thirty-five horse-power engine. Near the crossing of the railroads. Products shipped to Oliver Ames & Sons, North Easton, Massachusetts.

George W. Grimes is the proprietor of a foundry and machine shop, on the south side of Washington street, near the railroad, where he manufactures boilers, engines, mill machinery, architectural iron work, etc. He also buys machinery to repair and sell again. Does repairing and makes light and heavy castings in iron and brass.

Henry Thoma, the longest in business at Bluffton, has been engaged in the furniture trade ever since 1854.

The "City Building," comprising the fire department, council-room, etc., is a fine two-story brick structure, erected in 1879. In the fire department are two chemical engines, two hose-carts and hook and ladder tackle, which, in connection with the Holly system of water works, constitute an efficient force in case of fire. There are twenty-five men regularly organized in the department, besides twenty-five volunteers, who are subject to call and serve without pay.

The city water-works were built during the summer of 1886, at a cost of \$17,755, and commenced operation in September. Capacity, one million gallons every twenty-four hours. Pumping works station near the river and the eastern corporation line. Two and a fourth miles of water mains are laid, and thirty-three fire hydrants are in position. Water perfectly pure, coming from granite rocks.

Washington Park is a pretty lot of ground

in the southeastern portion of the city, where improvements have been begun.

The iron bridge across the Wabash, on Main street, was erected in March, 1887, at a cost of \$7,000, besides the masonry, \$5,000. Bridge put up by the Indiana Bridge Company of Muncie.

The first bridge at Bluffton was a stout frame, built near the dam; the second, also a frame, uncovered, was built on Main street; the third, a covered frame, was carried away in the winter of 1887; the present iron bridge is the fourth.

One boring for natural gas has been made at this point, to the depth of 1,200 feet, at a cost of \$1,600, but with no success, as the well was probably sunk into a partition wall. This has been at the expense of a private company, of which L. A. Williamson is president and W. S. Silver, secretary. The enterprise is abandoned only temporarily. Recently gas was struck at Hartford, only a few miles distant.

The telephone was established at Bluffton in 1882. James Sale was the first manager; for the last three years R. E. Fisher has been manager.

The first tavern in Bluffton, a log building kept by Almon Case, has already been mentioned. The second was the Exchange Hotel, a frame building across the street east from the court-house, previously built for a residence, where Mr. Case was also proprietor. It was built by Robert Collins Bennett in 1840, and it still stands, a striking illustration of the architectural character of pioneer taverns. It was a noted stopping place in the days of stage coaches.

The next in age is the present Central House, kept by Moses Read, an accommodating landlord, who has been proprietor since 1885. The Oliver House, near the Presbyterian church, was opened September

1, 1875, by a public entertainment, and is a good hotel. The Wilson House is near the postoffice.

But the newest and by far the largest, most modern and most sumptuously furnished hotel in Bluffton is the Bliss House, a square south of the business center. It was built by Jeffrey Bliss, at a cost of about \$10,000, and opened in April, 1884, by James Humphrey, the present proprietor. James W. Runyan is clerk. Both these gentlemen are by every natural endowment well fitted for the places they occupy.

SCHOOLS.

The first school-house in Bluffton was a log building on the land of William Studabaker, the exact point being the northeast corner of the lot now occupied by the residence of Henry Thoma. Asa Coho, a kind of preacher of the gospel, was the first teacher. At present there are two brick school-houses in Bluffton. The principal one in its ground plan is a kind of double cruciform, is two stories high, and built and seated in modern style. In the building there are ten rooms and nine grades, and 550 pupils can be seated. The main building was erected in 1869, and an addition made to it in 1878. The cost of the building and furniture was \$16,700. The other is a two-room building, erected in 1882, in the southeastern part of the city, for the four primary grades, and is known as the Washington Park School. Total valuation of school property in Bluffton, \$15,300; apparatus, \$1,100; number of pupils enrolled, 704; average attendance, 620. P. A. Allen, superintendent.

CHURCHES.

Methodist Episcopal.—The first Methodist sermon in Bluffton, as already mentioned, was preached by Rev. George W. Bowers,

underneath a spreading oak at the foot of Johnson street, about the year 1838. Mr. Bowers is yet living, in an adjoining county. The Methodists afterward held meetings in various places in Bluffton, until they erected a frame church at the intersection of Cherry and Williams streets, which they occupied until the present church was built. The latter is a commanding brick edifice, 45x80 feet, on the southwest corner of Washington and William streets, with spire 126½ feet high; cost, \$12,000; built during the ministry of Rev. P. Carlan, in 1871-'72, and dedicated by Bishop Bowman October 13 of the latter year. Class-rooms are partitioned off, and the main audience room can be enlarged on occasion by throwing open the arched doors leading into them. Windows are of beautifully stained glass. The parsonage was built in 1882, at a cost of \$2,250. It is a large, fine building, with ten rooms, lattice porch, cellar, etc. The church has been supplied since its organization with the following pastors: 1838-'39, George W. Bowers; 1839-'40, Seth Smith; 1840-'42, Joseph Ockerman; 1842-'43, Henry H. Badley; 1843-'45, George Guild; 1845-'46, James Sparr; 1846-'47, Ansel Beach; 1847-'48, J. C. Medsker; 1848-'49, William Anderson; 1849-'50, J. H. Payton; 1850-'51, William Blake; 1851-'52, W. S. Birch; 1852-'53, William D. Hines; 1853-'54, M. Black and J. C. R. Layton; 1854-'55, O. P. Boyden; 1855-'57, F. A. Sale; 1857-'58, R. A. Newton; 1858-'59, J. H. Payton; 1859-'61, E. S. Preston; 1861-'63, J. H. Hutchinson; 1863-'64, C. P. Wright; 1864-'65, E. E. Pearman; 1865-'67, J. P. Nash; 1867-'68, C. Disbro; 1868-'70, J. Greer; 1870-'71, R. Toby; 1871-'73, P. Carland; 1873-'74, William Wilson; 1874-'76, C. Martindale; 1876-'79, N. Gillam; 1879-'81, J. E. Ervin; 1881-'84, H. J. Meek; 1884-

'86, H. J. Lacey; 1886, Milton Mahin, D. D., present pastor. At present there are 456 members with the following class-leaders: J. V. Kenagy, J. W. Baker, Ed. Bartlemay, J. L. Ball, Matilda Thoma, Neva Thomas, Mary J. Todd, P. A. Allen. P. A. Allen is superintendent of the Sunday-school, which has an enrollment of 345 scholars, with an average attendance of about 250. Besides, there are several other auxiliary societies, as the Young People's Union, the Wesleyans, the church social, etc., and about all the active members of the church are organized into committees on the various local interests of the church. A small manual is printed, giving all these particulars.

The Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church, in Harrison Township, is a neat frame, 30 x 40 feet, and well seated. It was built in 1866, during the ministry of Rev. J. T. Nash, with a membership of thirty.

The Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, also in Harrison Township, is a plain frame building, will seat 300 persons, and was erected in 1862.

The First Presbyterian Church of Bluffton was organized August 24, 1844, with twenty-two members, by John H. Russ, who had been appointed by the Presbytery of Miami for that purpose. Ruling elders, Andrew J. Riddle and Robert Marshall. Religious services were held in the court-house, then a rude log strneture. The pastors have been: John H. Russ, August 24, 1844, to December, 1845; Andrew C. McClelland, six months of 1847; Wilson M. Donaldson, October, 1848, to April, 1860; Richard M. Jackson, 1860-'65; Thomas Wallace, 1865-'70; Wilson M. Donaldson, 1870-'72; John W. Drake, November, 1873, to April 19, 1875, when he suddenly died; Frederick Stovenour, 1875-'77; Norman Jones, 1878-'79; George G. Copeland, 1880-'83; Will-

iam F. Matthews, November, 1882, to May, 1885; George G. Mitchell, July, 1885, to September, 1886, since which time there has been a vacancy.

Present elders, James Crosbie, G. E. Fulton, G. E. Gardner and J. L. Myers. Trustees, James Crosbie, President; Thomas Sturgis, Treasurer; David T. Smith, Secretary; James W. Wilson, M. M. Justus and J. H. Ormsby.

First house of worship built in 1853-'54; parsonage, costing, with appurtenances, \$1,500, built in 1875; and the present beautiful brick church was built in 1883-'84, at a cost of \$13,000, including lot. Sunday-school ever since the year 1860, now averaging in attendance 249. The Ruth Sewing Society, composed of married ladies, are raising funds to pay the church debt. Since 1883 it has paid over \$1,000. The Cheerful Workers, comprising young ladies, have also done their share.

During the forty-three years of this church's existence, 511 have been enrolled as members; there are now 199 members.

The Bluffton Baptist Church was organized October 14, 1841. Constituent members—Fleming Johns, Elizabeth Johns, Rebecca Stahl, Henry B. Elston, Martha Grimes. Ministers present—Robert Tisdale and Jesse Corn. Fleming Johns was elected deacon, and Rev. Robert Tisdale chosen pastor, who served as such until February, 1842. The first accessions were Caleb and Agnes Ayres, December, 1843. The records for several years give but a very incorrect history of the workings of the church. Some time in 1844 Rev. Tisdale was again chosen pastor, and served as such until some time in 1847, preaching one Sunday in each month. The meetings were held at private dwellings of the members, there not being even school-houses at convenient places. In August,

1844, the church was received into the Salamonie River Association. The first meeting held in Bluffton, as shown by the records, was in December, 1844.

Rev. J. B. Allen served as pastor from August, 1849, to March, 1852; number of members at that time, thirty-seven. Rev. Abel Johnson served as pastor from March, 1852, to June, 1862; number at that time, sixty-nine. Rev. S. Goodin served as pastor from September, 1862, to September, 1863. Rev. W. W. Robison served from December, 1863, to December, 1874. From December, 1874, to December, 1875, the church was supplied by Revs. Clark and Virgil.

During the pastorates of Revs. Johnson, Goodin and Robison the church had preaching most of the time twice in each month.

In December, 1875, Rev. W. W. Robison was again chosen pastor, preaching every Sabbath. Served as such until December, 1876, at which time the number of members was about 100. January, 1877, Rev. J. H. Reider was chosen pastor, and continued as such until January, 1885. February, 1885, Rev. W. W. Tinker was chosen pastor. Present number of members, 350.

The church edifice is built of brick, 36x50 feet, and cost when completed in 1871 about \$3,000.

The First Reformed Church, of Bluffton, was organized March 1, 1884, in the Universalist church. The congregation is a body politic, and incorporated according to the provision of the statutes of the State of Indiana. Rev. J. L. Bretz had been called as its mission pastor prior to its organization and incorporation. The board of elders at this time elected were Messrs. David M. Shelly and Joseph Herbert, with George A. Harnish and William H. Funk as deacons, and George A. Harnish, J. H. Houtz and William H. Funk as the board of trustees. The former have

the spiritual oversight of the congregation, the latter the temporal or secular.

The society organized with twenty-five members. The congregation has its house of worship on the corner of Washington and Oak streets. The congregation being numerically weak, it was deemed advisable to connect it with two country congregations, which together form a pastoral charge, and jointly own a desirable home or parsonage on West Wabash street, where its pastor resides as long as he continues their pastor.

The congregation at present numbers about fifty members. Rev. W. H. Xanders is its present pastor. Abraham Mast and David A. Shelly are ruling elders, and Ben. Asbamer and Charles Kaltwasser are deacons.

Rev. J. L. Bretz served the congregation from January, 1883, to March, 1886—about three years and two months.

The present pastor, Rev. W. H. Xanders, assumed the duties on November 1, 1886. After the resignation of the Rev. J. L. Bretz, the Rev. A. L. Hessler supplied the congregation with preaching until it had a regular pastor settled over it. The present membership, although not large in numbers, is zealous, and the prospect for greater prosperity is bright.

The First Christian Church, of Bluffton, was organized April 8, 1883, by Rev. W. D. Samuel, who was the first pastor. Rev. C. V. Strickland was pastor from August 1, 1883, to August 1, 1885, since which time Mr. Samuel has again had charge of the congregation. There are now about 160 members, with a Sunday-school of about 100 scholars; S. F. Ratliff, superintendent, who is also treasurer of the church. Frank Straw is clerk. The principal revivals have been in the winters of 1884 and 1886, when there were thirty accessions to the church, and in the winter of 1887, when there were twenty-

one. The church edifice is a neat frame, 35 x 60 feet in dimensions, built in 1884, at the corner of Cherry and Morgan streets, at a cost of about \$2,500.

The Six-Mile Christian Church, which meets about three miles above Bluffton (southeast), was organized September 2, 1838, by Elder Hallet Barber, and is consequently one of the oldest religious societies in Wells County. The first deacons were James and Anthony Atehison and James Bayman. David Whitman and 'Squire Thomas W. Van Horn were also members. Elder Barber, who lived at Rockford, this county, died with the Asiatic cholera about 1850, and was buried in the Mossburg grave-yard. He was an industrious laborer in his Master's vineyard, having in pioneer times to wade through swamps, swim rivers, travel unbroken roads, etc., to make the rounds on his large circuit.

Other early preachers at this point were Elders James Atehison, Elisha Ashley, John Robertson, Noah Michael, Henderson Graves and others.

The present membership is 140. Deacons—Abraham Studabaker, Lewis Prillaman and Jacob Smith. Sunday-school in the summer, with an average attendance of fifty-one last year. Henry Markley is superintendent.

Their first church was a log structure, about a mile and a half south of the present building, on the southeast corner of 'Squire Van Horn's land, and was built about 1840. Their present house of worship is a frame building that will seat 300 persons, and was erected in 1859. Rev. Kendall West, a resident, has been pastor of this church since August, 1885.

Universalist.—The first Universalist preaching in Bluffton was by Revs. Jonathan Kidwell and McCune, in 1843-'44; also among the pioneers were Revs. William J. Chaplin, Mr. Merrifield, H. B. Manford, Mr.

Curry and others. While Mr. McCune was here he held a public discussion on Universalism with Adam Hatfield, a Presbyterian layman, at Murray; and Mr. Chaplin held one at Bluffton, with Rev. Mr. Moss, of the Christian church. The newspaper debate between Wilson M. Bulger, Universalist, and Samuel Kenagy, Methodist, both laymen, is noticed on a previous page.

The first Universalist church society was organized August 9, 1855, with twenty-five members, by Rev. Chaplin; William Bulger was appointed clerk; Amos Townsend and James Dailey, wardens; Bowen Hale, Michael Karns and C. S. Burgan, trustees. In 1878 the church was revived under the ministrations of Rev. Marion Crosby, at which time their house of worship was erected, on Cherry Street, 32x45 feet in size, at a cost of about \$2,000. It was dedicated May 16, 1880, by Rev. H. W. Hanson, of Chicago, assisted by the pastor, Rev. William Tucker. Rev. L. J. Spencer was pastor from 1881 to September, 1885, and Rev. N. A. Saxton from that time to the present, being employed to preach every Sunday until March, 1888. This is evidence that the church is growing stronger, as preaching could be sustained before his time but twice a month, by Rev. Spencer, and before that only once a month, by Rev. Tucker. Present membership, fifty-five, Sunday-school attendance, about ninety. I. H. Clifton, clerk of the church; trustees, Dr. C. T. Melsheimer, James P. Deam and Mary Oppenheim.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, a frame 30x50 feet, at the corner of Williams and Cherry streets, was dedicated by Bishop Dwenger, of Fort Wayne, in 1875. It cost about \$1,500. The congregation was first organized about the same time, as a mission church, with about five families. There are now about eighteen families, besides a few individuals.

Father Ferdinand Koerdt, of "Bluffton Road," or Sheldon, Allen County, has been the priest since 1876. Preceding him there had been Revs. Wemhoff, Myers, Walters and Wilkins. Mass once a month; also catechetical instruction.

In connection with this church are four auxiliary societies; as, the St. Joseph Society, which has been in operation eight years, each member paying 25 cents a month, for school and other purposes; the Altar Society, consisting of women who pay \$1.20 a year to keep up the altar; also in operation eight years; the Society of the Sacred Heart, started in 1883, consisting of boys; and the Society of the Infant Jesus, comprising all the youth and children who pay one cent a month for missionary purposes.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, F. & A. M., was organized under dispensation February 3, 1853, with A. W. Sanford, Worshipful Master; O. P. Gilham, Senior Warden; John Morgan, Junior Warden. The charter was granted May 25, following, when O. P. Gilham was installed as Worshipful Master; James R. McCleery, Senior Warden, and John Morgan, Junior Warden. The masters who have since presided have been Amos Townsend, T. L. Wisner, Newton Burwell, J. Sharpe Wisner, J. J. Todd, Jere North, J. R. Bennett, C. Warner and J. W. Spake, the present Worshipful Master. Present membership, about 100. Present officers: J. W. Spake, Worshipful Master; William Beer, Senior Warden; C. M. Miller, Junior Warden; H. Thoma, Treasurer; A. Townsend, Secretary; J. G. McCleery, Senior Deacon, Ernst Wiecking, Junior Deacon; S. M. Karns, Tyler.

Bluffton Chapter, No. 95, R. A. M., was instituted September 19, 1876; dispensation granted the preceding day, appointing

T. L. Wisner, High Priest; W. B. Miller, King, and W. W. Angel, Scribe, charter dated October 19 following, naming as officers, T. L. Wisner, High Priest; W. B. Miller, King; W. W. Angel, Scribe, who served until December 29, same year, when the following were elected: T. L. Wisner, High Priest; D. E. Bulger, King; E. M. Cook, Scribe; Jere North, C. H.; J. J. Todd, P. S.; J. W. Zehrung, R. A. C.; W. J. Craig, M. 3d V.; W. W. Angel, M. 2d V.; G. T. Koehler, M. 1st V.; S. Oppenheim, Treasurer; H. L. Wisner, Secretary; M. M. Bassett, Guard. T. L. Wisner was high priest until December, 1881; then Horace L. Wisner two years, J. J. Todd one year, J. P. Hale two years, and J. H. Clifton was elected December, 1886. Membership has increased from nine to fifty-five. Regular meetings Monday of or preceding each full moon.

Crescent Chapter, No. 48, O. E. S., was organized March 24, 1881, holding its first regular meeting four days afterward. The officers at that time were, Caroline Davenport, Worthy Matron; J. J. Todd, Worthy Patron; Mary E. Mason, Associate Matron; Flo Koher, Secretary; Georgia Karns, Treasurer. Including these officers, the chapter then comprised thirty-three members; it now numbers ninety-five. Since the first mentioned above, Mrs. Mary E. Mason, J. J. Todd and Delia W. Hale have served as worthy matrons, and Messrs. E. Y. Sturgis and Jere North as worthy patrons. The present officers are, Mrs. Maggie Wisner, Worthy Matron; P. A. Allen, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Mellie McCleery, Associate Matron; Mrs. M. A. Horton, Secretary; Mrs. Charles S. Lacey, Treasurer. The chapter meets once a month, and is in a very prosperous condition, both financially and socially.

Bluffton Assembly of Knights of Labor, No. 6,282, was organized April 14, 1886, in

a rear room of the Centennial Block, with thirty-two charter members; W. P. McMahon, Master Workman; E. B. McDowell, Worthly Foreman, and J. B. Poffenberger, Recording Secretary. Efforts had been previously made, but without success, in 1882 and 1884, to establish an assembly at Bluffton. The difficulties to be encountered were peculiarly embarrassing. J. V. Hiler, of Fort Wayne, State organizer, was the presiding officer on the above occasion. The membership growing, the assembly moved to a larger room in the Deam Block, and afterward to a still better place in the McFarren Block. Present membership, 375, and rapidly increasing.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows.—The history of Odd Fellowship in Wells County dates back to October 6, 1852. Some time before Messrs E. K. Bascom, Adnah Hall, Charles Smith, Lew Allen Price and Charles T. Melsheimer, the only members of the order then known in the county, conceived the idea that a lodge of the order would be of essential benefit to the advancement of human progress in this section of the State. With this view they sent their petition to the Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana, then in session, July 21, 1852, at Indianapolis, praying for the charter of a lodge to be located at Bluffton, the county seat of Wells County. The charter was granted under the name of Bluffton Lodge, No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In accordance, the lodge was instituted October 6, 1852, in the second story of what is now known as the Wood's building, situated on the northwest corner of inlet No. 56 (in original plat), of Bluffton, on East Market street. The installing officers were Department Deputy Grand Master O. F. Jeffords, assisted by Past Grand Harlow Wells, M. Henry, Lewis Lynn, George S. Carroll, N. Ellis, of Fort Wayne Lodge, No. 14, and A.

C. Probaseo, Charles Anderson, A. M. Webb and Rufus M. French, of Harmony Lodge, No. 119, Fort Wayne. The first officers elected were: A. K. Bascom, Noble Grand; A. Hall, Vice-Grand; Charles T. Melsheimer, Secretary, and Lew Allen Price, Treasurer. Two Brothers, Nathaniel Greenfield and William Sharp, from Dalton Lodge, Ohio, were admitted by card, and Anza White, Amos Townsend, Theodore Horton, James Dailey and William W. Wilson were initiated on petition, making a membership of twelve.

The first representative to the Grand Lodge was Past Grand C. T. Melsheimer, on July 1, 1854.

Since the institution of the lodge up to January 1, 1887, the following report, made by a committee appointed by the lodge, composed of Past Grand C. T. Melsheimer, Past Grand C. I. Kline and Past Grand J. B. Plessinger, was submitted and approved:

Whole number initiated, 199; admitted by card, 56; reinstated, 31; withdrawn on card, 51; expelled, 7; dropped, 97; died, 16; degrees conferred, 643; total amount of receipts, \$13,612.05; amount of expenditures, \$5,543.59.

Present officers: B. L. Fry, Noble Grand; S. D. Hasty, Vice-Grand; C. I. Kline, Secretary; W. I. Fitch, Treasurer. Number of members, 85.

Order of Rebekah, Paradise Lodge, No. 83, was instituted in Bluffton, March 27, 1872. Prior to this time the degree of Rebekah was conferred upon members of the third degree and their wives by the subordinate lodge.

The officers first elected were: John W. Kenagy, Noble Grand; Sister Lucinda Dailey, Vice-Grand; John W. Tribolet, Secretary, and Sister Catharine Wilhelm, Treasurer.

Number of members initiated, 119; present number in good standing, sixty. Pres-

ent officers are: Mrs. I. I. Fitch, Noble Grand; Mrs. Mary Cook, Vice-Grand; Mrs. L. C. Bender, Secretary, and Mrs. M. McBride, Treasurer.

Patriarchal Encampment, No. 141.—Charter issued to Patriarchs May 15, 1876. On the prayer of Samuel L. Dailey, Charles A. Clayton, Isaac H. Pepperel, C. I. Kline, J. B. Plessinger, C. Warner, F. N. Kellogg, John W. Kenagy, Charles Shaffer and John N. Smith. It was instituted in the hall of Bluffton Lodge, under the name of Bluffton Encampment, No. 141, with the following officers: Samuel L. Dailey, Chief Priest; James B. Plessinger, High Priest; John W. Kenagy, Scribe; C. I. Kline, Grand Warden; Charles Shaffer, Junior Warden; F. N. Kellogg, Treasurer. Present officers are: James B. Plessinger, Chief Priest; F. D. Hasty, High Priest; C. I. Kline, Scribe; A. E. North, Grand Warden; Thomas J. McDowell, Junior Warden; W. J. Fitch, Treasurer. Whole number of contributing members, sixty.

Patriarchal Militant, Uniform Degree, Camp No. 12, was chartered March 31, 1883, on the application of Patriarchs F. D. Waring, L. M. Dailey, H. Steckemper, I. H. Pepperel, Richard Rossington, W. I. Fitch, W. L. Swan, J. B. Plessinger, C. T. Melshinner, Charles Shaffer, S. Oppenheim, W. S. Silver, T. J. McDowell, Fred Mosumen, C. I. Kline, John E. Sturges, J. N. Myers and John H. Smith. The following officers were elected: J. B. Plessinger, Commander; J. H. Smith, Senior Vice-Commander; C. I. Kline, Junior Vice-Commander; Henry Steckemper, Outside Guard; W. L. Swan, Secretary; W. I. Fitch, Treasurer. Present number of members, twenty-three.

Bluffton Lodge, No. 92, Knights of Pythias, was instituted February 16, 1881.

Officers, first term: C. M. France, Past Chancellor; W. C. Stockton, Chancellor Commander; N. Conover, Vice-Chancellor; O. P. Koontz, Prelate; C. A. McKendry, Keeper of Records and Seals; G. W. Grimes, Master of Finance; B. F. Little, Master of Exchequer; T. D. Blackburn, Master at Arms; B. F. Forst, Inside Guard; A. Kornblith, Outside Guard. The present officers are: George Taylor, Past Chancellor; M. W. Walbert, Chancellor Commander; A. Mosure, Vice-Chancellor; M. Feaser, Prelate; H. E. Gilliland, Keeper of Records and Seals; William Guoynes, Master of Finance; George S. Ogden, Master of Exchequer; W. L. Holmes, Master at Arms; H. Workman, Inside Guard; John Burgan, Outside Guard. The charter members were: Jay G. French, Frank Staver, S. S. Roth, B. F. Little, O. P. Koontz, Frank McBride, N. Conover, A. Kornblith, W. C. Stockton, T. D. Blackburn, John W. Smith, D. T. Smith, G. N. Borgart, B. E. Morgan, W. D. Mason, W. H. Ernst, C. A. McKendry, B. F. Forst, G. W. Grimes, H. E. Gilliland. The lodge is in a healthy condition financially, prosperous in numbers, having work almost every night conferring ranks and candidates.

Bluffton Lodge, No. 1838, Knights of Honor, was organized October 22, 1879, in the office of J. J. Todd, Esq., by William M. Obermyer, D. G. D., with the following charter members, and the offices indicated, to which some of them were immediately afterward elected: J. J. Todd, Past Dictator; Jere North, Dictator; W. D. Mason, Vice-Dictator; William Blackstone, Assistant Dictator; J. H. Reider, Chaplain; C. A. Clayton, Guide; J. H. C. Smith, Reporter; J. H. Smith, Financial Reporter; G. E. Gardner, Treasurer; A. Kornblith, Guardian; B. F. Forst, Sentinel; E. R. Horton, L. L. Martz, H. Dougherty, W. C. Stockton, J. V. Ken-

agy, W. A. Gutelius, W. A. Craig, J. W. Tribolet, E. Y. Sturgis.

On the second day after organization, J. W. Tribolet, John North and Hugh Dougherty were elected trustees, who fixed the first and third Friday evenings of each month for the regular meetings. Since organization, eighty-four names have been placed upon the membership roll. Three have died, each of whose families received \$2,000. Some have withdrawn by card, and a few have become delinquent. At this date (March, 1887), there are thirty-six full-rate and thirteen half-rate members.

In the office of dictator, since the first, J. J. Baumgardner has served two years, and W. J. Evans three years or over. O. P. Koontz has been reporter since September, 1881.

Present officers: J. J. Baumgardner, Past Dictator; M. A. Spake, Dictator; M. F. Borroughs, Vice-Dictator; G. R. Venis, Assistant Dictator; O. J. Montgomery, Chaplain; W. J. Evans, Financial Reporter; O. P. Koontz, Reporter; G. F. Markley, Treasurer; W. S. Crouse, Guide; W. C. Stockton, Guard; A. S. Van Eimen, Sentinel.

Lodge meets every second and fourth Friday evenings of the month, in the hall over the Exchange Bank.

The object of the above order is to unite all acceptable white men into a secret fraternity, who should aid one another and their families, both morally and materially, by instructive lectures and a health and life insurance fund, and ameliorate the condition of humanity generally. Upon the death of any member a sum not exceeding \$2,000 is to be paid to his family.

Low Daily Post, No. 33, G. A. R., was organized October 6, 1881, by J. R. Canahan, Mustering Officer, with twenty-four members, including the following officers:

Captain E. Y. Sturgis, Commander; William R. Miller, Senior Vice-Commander; William H. Covert, Junior Vice-Commander; Lee L. Martz, Quartermaster; Dr. A. G. Gorrell, Surgeon; Jacob J. Todd, Chaplain; George W. Louis, Officer of the Day; S. M. Karns, Officer of the Guard; F. N. Kellogg, Adjutant. To date, 200 have been mustered in; present membership, 156, including representatives from ninety-nine regiments of infantry and two batteries and U. S. Engineers.

Present officers: Benjamin L. Frye, Commander; A. N. Martin, Senior Vice-Commander; William H. Stephenson, Junior Vice-Commander; F. Ellinger, Quartermaster; J. W. Bugh, Surgeon; N. A. Saxton, Chaplain; William Brown, Officer of the Day; H. K. Williams, Officer of the Guard; William E. Kinert, Adjutant; George W. Louis, Sergeant-Major; John Wasson, Quartermaster-Sergeant; J. G. Feeser, Inside Sentinel; Samuel Foncannon, Outside Sentinel; W. H. Stephenson, Lee Martz, John Wasson, Council of Administration; W. J. Craig, W. H. Stephenson, A. N. Martin, Delegates to State Encampment.

The Sons of Veterans also have a camp in Bluffton.

MINOR SOCIETIES.

Ever since the most infantile stage of Bluffton's existence there have been literary and other societies. A lyceum for debates and other exercises was in existence as early as 1849. In a number of the *Republican Bugle* we notice that in the autumn of that year they debated the proposition, "Should the union of these States be dissolved under any circumstances?" Affirmative, Sylvanus Church; negative, Theodore Horton.

More recently a Chautauqua literary and scientific circle was established, having at one time as many as twenty-five members; but it is now discontinued, apparently because the

course of study was not thorough enough, or the examinations sufficiently rigid.

The "Ethereal Band" is the latest musical association for public entertainment, the music being produced by a rare combination of light instruments. It has been in existence since 1883.

The "Bluffton Hunting Club" has been making excursions to distant points for a number of years, as Arkansas, Michigan, etc., to participate in the pleasures of the chase. Hon. Levi Mock is the tallest man of that happy "crowd."

Various literary societies and social clubs have given entertainments from time to time, some of which were very successful. "You ought to have seen" J. J. Todd, Esq., on one occasion, when he shook so dreadfully. The audience shook, too. The gentleman mentioned appeared before the excited multitude, dressed as a poverty-stricken Hoosier pioneer, with an ill-fitting, buttonless, ragged coat, held in place by a rope wound twice around the waist; blue overalls tucked shabbily into his heavy boot-tops; slouch hat, around which was a large piece of red flannel; and a large frowzy, false mustache. He stood with arms akimbo, while, in the Hoosier accent of forty years ago, he muttered:—

INDIANA AGER.

Once upon an evening weary,
Whilst I sat me lone and dreary,
In the sunshine, thinking o'er
Things that had passed in days of yore,
Gently there came in something creeping—
Creeping upward from beneath my chamber floor.
"Tis a cooling breeze," I muttered,
From the regions 'neath the floor,—
Only this and nothing more.

So I sat me, nearly napping,
In the sunshine stretching, gaping,
And a-feeling quite delighted
With the breeze from 'neath the floor,
Till I felt me growing colder,
And the stretching waxing bolder,
And myself now feeling older,

Feeling older than I'd felt before,—
Older than I'd felt before.

Ah! distinctly I remember,
'Twas in that wet September
Of creation that I bore,—
Had for weeks and months been soaking
In the meanest, most provoking fog-rain
That, without joking, we had ever seen before;
So I knew it must be very cold,
Very cold and damp beneath the floor,
Very damp beneath the floor.

All along my back the creeping
Soon gave place to rushing, leaping,
As if countless frozen demons
Had concluded to explore
All the cavities, the varmints
'Twixt me and my nether garments
Through my boots into the floor,
Till I found myself a-shaking,
Gently shaking, more and more,—
Every moment more and more.

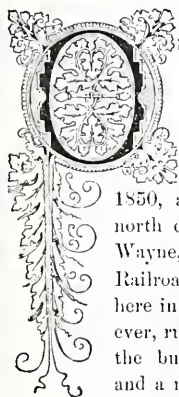
'Twas the ager; and it took me,
Shaking, to the kitchen,—every place,—
Every place where there was warmth in store,—
Shaking till the china rattled,
Shaking till my molars chattered,
Shaking, and with all my warming
Feeling colder than before,—
Colder than I'd felt before.

Then it rested till the morrow,
When it came with all the horror
That it had the face to borrow,—
Shaking, shaking—O so sore!
Shaking off my boots, and shaking
Me to bed, if nothing more,
Truly this, if nothing more.

And from that day in September,—
Day which I shall long remember,—
It has made diurnal visits,
Shaking, shaking as before.

* * * * *

And to-day the swallows flitting
Round my chamber see me sitting,
Moodily within the sunshine,
Just inside my silent door,
Waiting for the ager, seeming
Like a man forever dreaming,
And the sunlight on me streaming,
Sheds no shadow on the floor,
For I am too thin and fallow
To make shadows on the floor,—
Ne'er a shadow any more!



SSIAN, a beautiful village of sober and industrious inhabitants, now numbering nearly 600, was laid out by the township trustees March 14, 1850, and is about nine miles north of Bluffton, on the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad, which was built through here in 1869. The railroad, however, running a half mile west of the business center, two mills and a number of dwellings have sprung up about the depot, receiving the name of West Ossian. The village is not yet incorporated.

BUSINESS.

The present business of the village is now represented by H. Hatfield, general store; Anderson Morton, dry goods, recently burned out, but is rebuilding; J. H. Hoover, drug store; Bell & Davis, drug store; F. S. Naus, furniture store and chair factory; Henry Kreigh, grocery; William Quawkenbush, grocery and bakery; Ellsworth Salisbury, tin, stoves, hardware, and is also undertaker;

warehouse, H. Hatfield & Sons; William Earl and Harvey Spence, wagon shops; Stine & Son, and Stine & McCollum, blacksmiths; Marcellus Donaldson, shoe shop; N. Weaver, harness shop; Mrs. Mary Vincore and Mrs. Wilmington, millinery; James Gorrell, hub factory; Eastman, Hatfield & Craig, creamery; Robert Seaton, postmaster; John Chalfant, lawyer; J. I. Metts, A. H. Metts and M. N. Newman, physicians; besides the following, more at length:

Woodward & Rupright's flouring mill is the successor of two on the site which have been burned out. The first was built in 1864 by James Gorrell and John Brown, who ran it about two years, since which time the proprietors have been: John Brown and James Milligan, eight years; James Gorrell and James Wilson, Wilson & Donaldson, — Craig, — Mannes and L. F. Wilson (burned out within six months), L. F. Wilson (burned out in three years), L. F. Wilson and A. Woodward, and since last February Woodward & Rupright. They do both merchant and custom work, with a forty-five horsepower engine, and two run of burrs for wheat, one for middlings, and one for corn.

Koons & Co. (Philip Koons, William R.

Beaty and Thomas A. Doan), near the depot, manufacture and deal in dressed and rough lumber, shingles, lath, mouldings, etc. Mill was first built in 1872 by Koons, Milligan & Glass, with only half the present capacity. The present company commenced in 1875, and they now have a sixty-five horse-power engine, employ nine hands, and run the mill nearly all the time.

E. Nimmons, with an average number of thirty hands in the winter, and fifty in the summer, manufactures oil-barrel staves and cired heading, which he ships to the Standard Oil Company. The mill was first built by Carey & Baker in 1870, was burned down in 1872, rebuilt in the autumn of the same year, sold to H. Hatfield in the fall of 1876, to Nimmons & Bros. in 1878, and since January, 1883, the present proprietor has had it alone.

Jacob Getty, who has resided in Jefferson Township thirty-two years, has kept the Ossian House and livery stable for the last sixteen years.

The present school building, a good two-story brick structure, was erected in 1878 at a cost of \$5,000, by John B. Woods, contractor, and James Gorrell, trustee. Present trustee, Dr. M. N. Newman; present principal of the school, J. P. Bonnell, who commenced December 7, 1885; has four assistants. The course of study comprises some of the higher branches, as algebra, geometry, botany, geology, zoology, chemistry, natural philosophy and a two years' Latin course. School is taught eight months each year. Present enrollment, 200; building will accommodate 230.

CHURCHES.

The Presbyterian Church at Ossian was organized in 1840 at the house of Adam Hatfield, by Rev. Isaac A. Ogden, with thirty members. The pastors since then have been

Revs. W. M. Donaldson, John Mitchell and M. M. Lawson. Present membership, 180. Trustees, G. W. Glass, Edward Stine and H. W. Somers; treasurer, H. Hatfield. The house of worship is a plain frame building, 40 x 60 feet, will seat 400 persons, and was built in 1858, during the ministry of Rev. Donaldson. Their first place of meeting was a log church, about two and a half miles southwest of town. In connection with the church is a Sunday-school, having an average attendance of about 125 pupils; present superintendent, E. A. Vail; also a Ladies' Missionary Society, and a Young Ladies' Union (also missionary). Elders—Joseph Gorrell, William H. Rankin, John Hatfield, H. Hatfield, George Harter and M. J. Gorrell.

Mr. Donaldson was pastor of this church, together with those at Murray and Bluffton, twenty-eight and a half years, residing at the respective places portions of his time. He now resides in Summit County, Ohio.

Mr. Lawson, the resident pastor, was born in Hillsboro, Ohio, February 21, 1844, son of Isaac and Elizabeth Lawson, and was nine years of age when the family moved to Indiana; served from the age of eighteen to twenty-one in the Seventieth Indiana Infantry, being with Sherman's army to the sea and return; received his classical education at Wabash College, and his theological at Lane Seminary, Cincinnati, spending nine consecutive years in preparing for the ministry; was married December 14, 1875; in April following he was ordained at Marion, Ohio; served several churches in that State, and since 1883 has had charge of the church at Ossian, during which time seventy-two have been added to the same. Mr. Lawson married Miss Katie, daughter of Rev. James A. and Mary (McCutchen) Darrah, and a native of Missouri, and their children are—

James McKnight, Mary, Florence and Isaac Harry. Mr. Lawson, serving at several points, has at present about 700 souls under his care within a radius of six miles.

El Huanan Presbyterian Church, three miles east and one-half north of Ossian, is a frame 26x36 feet, built on a lot donated for church and cemetery purposes by Robert Ewell, in 1845, during the pastorate of Rev. John Nevins. Present membership, about forty; elders, Alexander White, Charles Ferguson, James W. Ferguson; Sunday-school with thirty-five scholars, and Alexander White, superintendent. Pastor, Rev. M. M. Lawson.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Ossian was organized about the year 1851, with about ten members, and John W. Foughty as class-leader. The present membership is about 100 and the present class-leaders are John W. Foughty and John W. Wilson. Sunday-school attendance, 140; Frederick Livengood, superintendent. Their house of worship, erected in 1857 or 1858, was enlarged in 1866, so that it is now 42 x 55 feet in dimensions, valued at about \$1,000. This society has also a fine parsonage. Before the church was organized, Rev. Greenman preached awhile in this community, and the pastors since that time have been, in order: Revs. W. S. Bireh, James Johnston, W. T. Smith, Asbury Andrew, A. Douglas, B. Armstrong (and Erie, supplied), Stephen H. Clark, — Colelazer, J. P. Nash, — McNeal, O. D. Watkins, J. H. Slade, W. E. Curtis, J. W. Roberts, — McMahon, — Wolverton, J. Mann, J. B. Meridith, Newton Burwell, — Ramsey, E. P. Church and Joseph Lewellen. Under Mr. Church's ministrations there was a great revival. Harvey Pierce, now deceased, was a local preacher, whose five sons, besides a son-in-law, also became Methodist ministers. Mr. J. W.

Foughty, referred to above, is also a local preacher. Present stewards—J. W. Foughty, Sutton Potee and J. L. Wilson. Mr. Lewellen, the present pastor, is a native of Randolph County, Indiana, born in 1848; attended Asbury University, and was admitted in the annual conference in 1873. Ossian is his sixth charge, to which he was appointed in April, 1886.

Of this church, James Cartwright has generally been trustee, and always one of the main pillars.

Emmaus (formerly Salem) *Methodist Episcopal Church*, four and a half miles southeast of Ossian, is a frame, 30 x 40 feet, built in 1876. The society there was organized with about forty members, mainly from the United Brethren church. Class-leaders, George Hall and William Sowards; stewards, Levi Hoover and Newton Carpenter. Michael C. Blue is superintendent of Sunday-school, which has about fifty scholars.

Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church.—From Mr. Levi Osborn we learn that this society was first organized in the Honsel neighborhood, at the house of John A. Lepper in Jefferson Township, October 30, 1848, and was then in St. Mary's mission, Fort Wayne district. F. M. Palmer was the missionary, Samuel Brinton, presiding elder, and William W. Cotton, class-leader. The original members were: William W. Cotton and wife, Absalom Honsel and wife, Hezekiah Allen and wife, William Quawkenbush and wife, Mary Cotton, John A. Lepper and wife, and Hannah Ady. We add that the present membership is about seventy, with William Lipkey and Simpson Todd class-leaders, and Levi Osborn and Simpson Todd stewards; local preachers, William Beaty and Jeremiah Soule. Sunday-school, with about sixty scholars, is superintended by Jacob Osborn. The church building, four and a half miles

southwest of Ossian, is a frame, 40 x 45 feet, erected probably about 1861.

The Olive-Branch Baptist Church, a frame building, three miles northeast of Ossian, was 30 x 40 feet in size. The society there was organized prior to 1840, and has had as high as forty members at one time. Ministers there have been: Revs. W. N. Welker, — Colton, Levi Harding, — Schofield, J. H. Winans and others. In the fall of 1881 the building was removed to Ossian, where the present membership is about forty-five. Nathan Tobey, superintendent of Sunday-school. Preaching every two weeks, Sunday morning. Deacons, Jeremiah Clark, Abraham Clark and J. Roek; clerk, Nathan Tobey. Present pastor, since March, 1857, Rev. D. B. Reckard, of Decatur.

The Christian Church at Ossian was organized at the school-house November 20, 1872, by Elder McCormick, with thirty-three members. Local elders, J. E. Lepper and Peter Quawkenbush; deacons, David McDowell and Samuel Hughes. Ministers serving in a pastoral capacity have been: L. L. Carpenter, Messrs. Streeter, of Ohio, Lambert, Blaney, and perhaps others. The greatest number of accessions to the church were in Rev. Streeter's time. Have generally had a Sunday-school. Since Rev. Mr. Blaney ceased preaching here in June, 1886, there have been no regular public services. He resides at Kendallville, Noble County. Church edifice, a frame, 40 x 60 feet, costing \$2,350, was dedicated November 3, 1873, by Elder L. L. Carpenter.

The Bethel United Brethren Church, at Ossian, is a frame, 30 x 40 feet, and was dedicated in August, 1882, by Rev. J. L. Luttrell. The membership has generally been over half a hundred. No pastoral services at present. The "Moneysmith" or Zion Church, four miles east of town, and

the Hebron Church, three or four miles northeast, as well as the Ossian Church, are alive and keep up their Sunday-schools. William Vardinan, of Ossian, is a local preacher.

TEMPERANCE.

Ossian has had two or three indirectly successful fights with the saloon evil. As early as 1850, during the building of the plank road from Fort Wayne to Bluffton, it became strikingly manifest that a drinking place was the origin of most evil, as exemplified by the great number of cases brought before a justice from the boarding-house where drinking intoxicants were indulged in, while none came from an equally patronized temperance boarding-house near by.

Recently an attempt was made to establish a saloon and billiard hall in Ossian. The temperance people consoled together and came to an understanding that when the new-comer should start from the depot with his wagon load of saloon appliances, including billiard table, a steam whistle should be blown, as a signal for their rendezvous. The event occurring, they surrounded the wagon, and the driver could not get help enough to unload the table. The proprietor was informed by Messrs. Hatfield and Gorrell what opposition he would meet with here, and he was ultimately persuaded, on being paid \$2, to leave the place.

On another occasion two men in partnership opened a saloon in Ossian, and, although they held their place for a short time, they had a falling out, and one was convicted for crime and sentenced to penitentiary for life. At another time a fire burned out the saloon that had been started a short time before; so that, "providentially," the saloonists have failed to sustain their cause in Ossian, and there is now no such ugly place of resort there as the bad element had contemplated.

A Murphy temperance society, with David Stine as president, was organized at Ossian in 1878, and worked nobly for about four years, when, the chief enemy having been providentially driven to other parts, there was little left before them to do.

SOCIETIES.

Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M., met under dispensation September 30, 1863. John P. Nash, Worshipful Master; E. Covert, Senior Warden; B. F. Taylor, Junior Warden. The master appointed William Beatty, Secretary; J. I. Metts, Treasurer; Joseph Kreigh, Senior Deacon; Thomas Vail, Junior Deacon. Charter members, same as mentioned, the charter being dated May 27, 1864, and July 7, following, Amos Townsend, of Bluffton, a special deputy of Grand Master Hacker, organized the lodge by the installment of the following officers: J. P. Nash, Worshipful Master; E. Covert, Senior Warden; B. F. Taylor, Junior Warden; J. I. Metts, Treasurer; C. Sumpton, Secretary; James Johnson, Senior Deacon; A. H. Metts, Junior Deacon; T. Vail, Tyler.

The following have served as masters: J. P. Nash, J. I. Metts, James Gorrell, C. W. Beardsley, William B. Miller, James P. Swain and William Stine, the present incumbent.

In 1877 the lodge room, with all the apartments, were destroyed by fire, without insurance, leaving the society bankrupt. This, together with certain deaths and removals, and the organization of a lodge at Zanesville, caused the lodge to run down; but, through the encouragement received from brethren of neighboring lodges, they revived, and they now have a nice room, well fitted up. There are now forty-seven members in good working order. Present officers: William Stine, Worshipful Master; I. Black,

Senior Warden; H. Spence, Junior Warden; N. M. Newman, —; James Gorrell, Senior Deacon, and James Clark, Junior Deacon.

William Swain Post, No. 169, G. A. R., was established in May, 1884, with twenty members, now increased to sixty-seven. Meetings, second and fourth Tuesday of each month. S. C. Goshorn has been commander from the first to the present. The other officers are: J. A. D. Taylor, Senior Vice-Commander; I. C. Black, Junior Vice-Commander; J. M. Henry, Officer of the Day; A. H. Metts, Adjutant; L. F. Wilson, Quartermaster; J. W. Foughty, Chaplain, and Dr. M. N. Newman, Post Surgeon. The post is in a very flourishing condition.

Camp Wilmington, No. 54, Sons of Veterans, was organized about the middle of November, 1886, with about twenty members, who are increasing in numbers. Meet once in two weeks. John Lepper, Jr., Captain; C. B. Henry, First Lieutenant; Curtis Goshorn, Second Lieutenant; Franklin Foughty, Officer of the Day; Camp Wilmington, Officer of the Guard; A. B. Tobey, Chaplain; Elmer Derr, Quartermaster, and Mason Powell, Jr., Color-Bearer.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

The first settlers of this township, of which Ossian is the present metropolis, were, in 1837, Samuel Ogden, who died here; Robert and William Craig (the latter dying in Allen County). In 1838, Richard Treenary, who resided here until his death; Thomas and James Ferguson, both deceased, in this township; Robert Ewell and Adam Hatfield, deceased. In 1839, John Davis, deceased; Jacob Bunn, whose widow is still living here; Levi Young; Samuel Weston, removed to Iowa and died; John Snyder and Joseph Hatfield. In 1840, J. R. Lefever, moved to Iowa and died; Jacob and Martin King,

William Webster and John Ogden; Webster did not remain, and there were two by the name of Martin King, one of whom died here and the other lives in Kansas. Also among the earliest settlers who are still living are Joseph Gorrell, William Quawkenbush and Ellison Covert.

The first election in this township was held April 6, 1840, at the house of William Craig, with Samuel Ogden as inspector. For trustees they elected Philip Sower, Richard

Treenary and Adam Hatfield; clerk, George Weston; treasurer, Jacob Bunn; justice of the peace, Samuel Weston.

This township is drained by Eight-Mile Creek, which receives its supplies mainly from the Grimm and Treenary prairies, and runs through Ossian, in a northwesterly direction.

The Ferguson road was the first opened in the township, running across east and west, a half mile north of Ossian, to Decatur.





LIBERTY CENTER.



JOHN W. RINEAR, Esq., gave the name to this new and enterprising village, and was its chief founder and still its principal patron, in allusion to the fact that it is at the center of Liberty Township. It was laid out November 12, 1878, by Messrs. Rinear and John Ernst, the location being favored by the fact that it is at the usual distance from other towns and is surrounded by a moral and industrious community, and has from the start had the advantage of railroad communication with the rest of the world. It is the first station west of Bluffton, on the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad. Previous to the above date there had been a school-house there from the earliest times, and more lately a store and two or three dwellings.

The place is but eight years old, has now a population of about 300, and as it is not

necessary to give the intermediate business history of the village, it will be sufficient to enumerate the present business establishments, to show the growth it has made in this brief period.

G. H. King & Sons (Willard B. and Benjamin J.) are the proprietors of a fine flouring mill, erected by them in 1882, and run with two run of burrs for wheat and one for corn until the spring of 1887, when they substituted the roller system. Capacity of the mill, forty barrels per day.

Charles Cole owns and runs a saw-mill for the manufacture of lumber of all kinds, principally for the home market, and also of coil hoops. Built in October, 1879, by the present proprietor. Engine of thirty-six horse-power. About eight hands are employed in and about the mill. Runs most of the year.

Jacob Jones also built a saw-mill here in 1879, but the machinery was moved away in January, 1887, after having been idle a year or two.

S. J. & J. U. Jackson's tile factory was

built in 1879, by Adams & Plank. Subsequently the latter sold his interest to S. J. Jackson, and the former to Mr. Myers, and Mr. Myers to Dr. F. W. Garrett and J. U. Jackson, and finally the doctor disposed of his interest to the present firm. It has not been a paying institution until within the last two years. It is now doing a thriving business. Last year they made 10,000 rods of tile, and this year will probably reach 15,000 rods, having just put in a new mill.

Johnson & Morgan and G. F. Markley, general stores, including hardware; Miller & Stall, and Henry King, dry goods and groceries; Garrett & Funk, drug store; Benjamin Foreman, shoe store; William Smithson, shoe shop; Jones & Ramsey, blacksmith and wagon shop; Hannesser & Funk, broom factory, established in February, 1887, and employing four hands; Ramsey & Stall, broom factory, started last year, and employ three hands; H. J. Johnson, barber; Mrs. Maria Turpin conducts the Heckman House, which was built by W. S. Heckman in 1880.

Dr. F. W. Garrett is the only physician. A biographical sketch of him can be found in this volume by the index.

The postmasters have been: S. J. Jackson, to January 1, 1877; J. W. Rinear thence to January 1, 1880, F. W. Garrett, to January 1, 1883; R. W. Crossdale, to January 1, 1885, since which time Milton Morgan has been the incumbent.

John W. Rinear, the longest a resident of Liberty Center, was the first justice of the peace at this point. During his term of office, twelve years, he married 104 couples. The next and present justice is Henry J. Johnson, who now does all the legal business of the place.

The first born at Liberty Center is Hattie S., daughter of John W. Rinear, and now the wife of John B. Funk. Having received

a good education, previous to marriage, she taught a number of years in the public schools.

The first born male is Charles W., son of Samuel J. Jackson.

The first marriage was X. N. Johnson to Mary E. Ernst; the first death was that of Mrs. Clark Morgan.

In the line of fine arts, Edward Rinear is considered superior in drawing and painting.

The first school-house was a log building, erected near the point occupied by the present brick school-house. The second was a frame, 24 x 30 feet, built in the summer and fall of 1859, and it still remains. It was occupied as a school-house and a place for public meetings of all kinds until the present fine two-story brick structure was erected, in 1881, at a cost of \$2,700, including the seats. This building was erected under the supervision of C. H. King, the trustee. The school is graded, the first and second departments being on the first floor, and the third, fourth and fifth above. Since the present building was erected, Mr. W. A. Luce has been the principal teacher, with a corps of assistants most of the time, and he has also conducted at this place normal schools for the last two summer seasons, with an attendance of twenty-eight pupils.

The principal church at Liberty Center is the *Baptist*, and the chief pillar of this church, Rev. Abel Johnson, a resident. He, with his coadjutors, have from the earliest day sustained a marked religious and moral influence over the community, in spite of many difficulties. The congregation was first organized in August, 1855, under the shade of a tree ("God's first temple," as Bryant has it), near the present site of the school-house, with sixteen members, namely: Abel Johnson, Sarah S. Johnson, Silas Parker, Ester Parker, Jacob First, Charles Rinear,

Jane S. Rinear, John Spake, Mary Spake, Michala Merriman, Martha Merriman, Eliza Monsey, Mrs. Fairchild, Ruth Irwin, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Cotton. The membership increased to 140, under the pastorate of Elder Johnson, and were also prosperous under the ministrations of Rev. C. B. Kendall; but are now reduced by deaths, removals, etc., to about seventy-five. The pastors have served in the following order: Revs. Abel Johnson, C. B. Kendall, now in Michigan, W. Wright, D. D. Spencer, D. O. Fritz, G. W. Walters, and J. E. Leakey, the present pastor, installed September, 1885. The first trustees were Abel Johnson, Charles Rinear and John Muncie; the present are Abel Johnson and Joseph Garrett, John Spake having just resigned, leaving a vacancy. Deacons, X. M. Johnson and Noah Garrett; Charles Rinear has served as deacon since the organization till this spring, and resigned in consequence of poor health; clerk, Lester Garrett. George W. Miller is superintendent of the Sunday-school, which has an average attendance of about 100 pupils.

The first Baptist church building at Liberty Center was a plain frame edifice, 36 x 50 feet, with a seating capacity of 400, completed in January, 1860. The present is a fine modern brick structure, of the same dimensions as the former, built in 1884, at a

cost of about \$3,000, and dedicated in September, that year, by Rev. William Elgin, of Indianapolis. Elder Johnson, as before intimated, has borne the chief burden in the building of both these churches, as well as in the prosperity of the church generally and of the spiritual and moral interests of the community at large.

Also the church has now a parsonage at Liberty Center, and for the first time in many years is now sustaining a pastor for his full time at this point.

The *Protestant Methodists* organized a society at Liberty Center in 1881, and they now have a membership of seventy-three, with Rev. J. C. McLin, resident pastor; George Merriman, class-leader; Mrs. Merri-man, steward. The society is preparing to build a church at the "Center" this year. They have other societies in this portion of Wells County, mentioned elsewhere.

Mr. McLin was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1825; moved with his parents in 1836 to Jay County, this State, where he grew up and lived many years; also resided a long time in Adams County, where he organized the "Shepherd Class," of which he is now the only surviving member. He was licensed to exhort in 1850, and to preach in 1858. Married Miss Elizabeth Burford June 10, 1845.



SMALLER VILLAGES.

PONETO.

PONETO, an enterprising village of 250 inhabitants, is a creature of the railroad, not of the company, but of the citizens on account of the railroad, led by Simon Tappy and Dr. H. Doster. It is situated about seven miles southwest of Bluffton, in the extreme southeastern corner of Liberty Township, and was laid out by Mr. Tappy, September 4, 1871, he giving the land for the depot and paying out money as an inducement to the railroad company. The depot here was secured in a successful opposition to Wellsburg, across Rock Creek to the north, which is consequently an abandoned point. It was first named Worthington Crossing, or Worthington, in honor of the superintendent of railroad; but as it was afterward ascertained that a post-office in this State already had that name, a new name was found in 1880 for the place, which it now bears.

When Poneto was laid out the only buildings on the ground were Mr. Tappy's residence and a saw-mill owned by Dr. C. T. Melsheimer, which was afterward moved away.

The business of Poneto is chiefly conducted by the following: Eph Ruth, general store; Crawford Eddington, also general store; Wilson, grocery; Joseph Kindlesparger and William B. Jones, blacksmiths; J. F. Moore, shoemaker; John Hardwidge, postmaster, and general store, including hardware; one barber shop.

The large brick business block, so conspicuous in Poneto, was built by John Hardwidge, partly in 1877, and afterward enlarged.

S. M. King's saw and planing mills, with corn-feed mill and flour exchange attached, was first set in motion, in part, in 1882 or '83, when Frank Courtney brought his saw and planing mills here. He sold to J. B. Plessinger, of Bluffton, who in turn sold to J. W. Heaton, and the latter to the present proprietor, in September, 1886. Mr. King employs five or six hands, and has in some lines plenty of work to do. Capacity of the

saw-mill, 8,000 feet a day. The flour-mill does excellent work.

At Wellsburg is a tile factory built in 1877, and run by Hardwidge & Cook.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Poneto comprises about forty members in full connection. Thomas Barnhower is class-leader, and William Singer, assistant. Simeon Tappy is both local and district steward, and Alexander Lee is a local steward. Mrs. Henrietta Tappy superintends the Sunday-school, which has about fifty scholars. The present church building is a neat frame, 32x42 feet, completed in 1880, at a cost of about \$1,200. The society was organized eight or ten years ago, with twenty-four members, and John Nicely, class-leader, and Isaac Singer, steward. Pastors—Rev. J. W. Paschall, Charles Bacon, J. C. McLin, Henry C. Myers, I. N. Rhodes, Henry Bridge, J. B. Cook and B. S. Holapeter, the present minister. The greatest periods of prosperity were under the ministrations of Revs. Myers, Bridge, Cook and Holapeter.

The Reiffstown Methodist Episcopal Church, a few miles east, has a membership of fifty, probably. Their building is a neat frame, 28x40 feet, built during the pastorate of Rev. H. C. Myers, and dedicated August 8, 1880, by Rev. L. W. Munson.

The Baptist Church at Poneto was organized June 21, 1880, with thirty members, by Rev. B. Howard, a resident of Poneto. The deacon was George Doster, and clerk, Henry Mann. Present membership, ninety. Deacons, Henry Mann and Daniel Jones. The former is still clerk, and is also superintendent of the Sunday-school, which averages about seventy-five in attendance. The house of worship was erected in 1880, at a cost of about \$1,700. Pastors—Revs. B. Howard, James E. Leaky and E. L. Thompson, the present incumbent, who came

from Buena Vista to this place in March, 1886.

The United Brethren Church was organized at Poneto about 1877, under the ministration of Rev. Beaver, and erected a fine frame church edifice in 1882, 36x50 feet, seated it, etc., but, failing to satisfy their creditors, it fell into the hands of the contractor. The society meets at the school-house once in four weeks, where they also maintain a Sunday-school. Pastors have been: Revs. W. S. Fields, Robert Ross, James W. Nicodemus, L. T. Johnson and Edward Baldue. Class-leader, Thomas Grove.

The school-house, about 25x30 feet, is constructed of brick, and cost \$500 or \$600. School is taught by Oscar Noe, and the average attendance is about fifty.

Liberty Township was first settled by James Jackson and Henry Mossburg, in the winter of 1836-'37, both of whom are deceased; the latter was an aged man on his arrival here. During the following autumn came G. H. King, before mentioned, and Johnson King, who died March 10, 1842. The former is the oldest living resident in the township. In 1838 there arrived here James Hiram Jackson, whose oldest son is still residing here, and David Chapinan, aged and soon becoming blind, who died in an early day. The next year there settled here Stuart Bolton, Benjamin Mendenhall and John McFarren (grandfather of George F. McFarren, the Bluffton merchant), all of whom died many years ago; also David Goings, who afterward moved to Delaware County, and is now living in Kansas; George Sparks, who sold out and lived elsewhere for a time, but is now a resident of the county again; George P. Mann, county surveyor a number of years, now deceased, and James M. Merriman, who still resides upon the farm he first occupied. In 1840 came John Hupp, who is still living

upon his original farm, and John Muncie, deceased; and in 1841 Jacob First, who is still living at the "Center," with Mr. J. W. Rinear. He was one of the first trustees of the township, and held that office many years.

The township was organized, and the first election held, at the house of Johnson King, the inspector, on the first Monday of April, 1842. As there were only nine voters at this election, and five of them were required to fill the board of officers, they did not wish to spend the day in idleness after they had all voted; and as the polls could not be legally closed until 4 p. m., they covered their ballot box, which was a hat, with a handkerchief, set it aside, and improved the day in rolling logs for Mr. King, thereby getting in a full day's work and holding the election at the same time.

The names of these nine voters were James Jackson, Henry Mossburg, G. H. and Johnson King, Jacob First, John McFarren, David Goings, John Muncie and John Hupp.

The first road opened through Liberty Township ran from Bluffton to Jackson Township, leaving the center of Liberty to the right. It was surveyed with a pocket compass, about 1839 or '40. It has long since been obliterated by farms. The next road was the present north and south road running through the "Center," on a section line.

In aid of the Narrow Gauge road the township paid nearly \$9,000.

The first school taught in the township was kept by George F. Mitchell, in a cabin built by Henry Stites, on section 28. Since then trees have grown up on the site fifty to sixty feet high, but have been cut away and the land reduced to cultivation. The second school in the township was taught by Lorenzo Irwin, in a cabin southwest of Liberty Center.

The *Methodist Protestants* have an organized society of eleven members, in the north-

western part of the township, with bright prospects for increased strength. In the northeastern part of the township they have a class of fourteen.

Blanch Chapel, Methodist Protestant, two miles west of Poneto, is a frame, 32x42 feet, erected about 1881. The society, which had been organized many years previously, now numbers fifty-six.

The "*New Lights*" have a society at Liberty Union Church, a frame, 30x50 feet, built in 1873, in the northwestern part of Liberty Township, and free to all denominations.

VERA CRUZ,

called Newville until about 1870, is a village of about 350 population, seven miles up the river from Bluffton, being in a southeasterly direction and on the other side of the river. Like Murray, it never obtained a railroad, and therefore shows signs of dilapidation. Very good people live here, however, and many of the buildings look new and neat. It was laid by James Higgins and Christian Sowers, September 21, 1848.

Business: William Mertz, Jr., postmaster for the last thirteen years, keeps drugs and groceries; Fitzpatrick & Son, Geisel & Hang, and Samuel Mosiman, general stores; the latter also keeps tin and hardware; M. Hennefort and William F. Mosure, blacksmiths; Samuel Siegrist, wagon maker; August Müller and Leonard Tremp, shoemakers; Mrs. C. Biberstein and Mrs. Waltemath, milliners; Mrs. Maggie Bixler conducts the Bixler House; Dr. J. D. Fitzpatrick, physician.

A Daelhonsen's woolen factory was started over twenty years ago, and he has had it since 1875. The factory has 180 spindles, one set of cards, and about five hands are usually employed. Yarn is the principal product, which is shipped to dealers in neighboring towns. Steam power.

Isaac North & Co., since 1881, have owned the flouring-mill, which has two run of burrs for wheat and one for corn, and is run by either steam or water power; engine, thirty-horse power; capacity, about fifty barrels of flour per day. The mill was originally built in early times and has been several times remodeled. Only custom work is done here.

Meyer & Gehrig own and run a saw-mill across the river south, and a tile factory and brickyard in the northern portion of the village.

Ferdinand Biberstein has a saw-mill in the village, which he runs a portion of the time.

For music, Vera Cruz has a cornet band of twelve or fourteen pieces.

The village was incorporated in 1870. Present trustees: Ernest Hoche, John Meyer, and the third has just resigned.

The four oldest residents in this vicinity, who came here previous to 1850, are William Mertz, Sr., David Buehler, Mrs. Joray and Mrs. Mary Boivine.

The graded school building of Vera Cruz was erected in 1868, and is a two-story frame that will accommodate 125 pupils, which is the number of the present enrollment. It comprises two grades.

St. John's Reformed Church.—The first members of this church came into the neighborhood in the spring of 1841, namely, Christian Saurer, Peter Meyer and John Moeschberger; and half a year later David Buehler arrived. All these were from the canton of Berne, Switzerland.

The first minister was Rev. Knabe, who preached every six weeks here, two years in Mr. Saurer's house and two in Mr. Mueller's. Thenceforward for some time there was occasional preaching by Revs. Baier, Altermatt and Bossard, from Fort Wayne. Some of the parents here sent their children to that

distant point—about thirty miles—for catechetical instruction.

In 1849 a Lutheran preacher named Kleinekaes organized a Reformed Lutheran church, and at that time a parsonage was built, which also served as a meeting-house. He remained but a year. Afterward Rev. Chambourd began preaching here, and by this time there were several French families in the neighborhood who were believers. They began to make preparations for building a church on a lot donated by Ferdinand Ritter, but before the work was far advanced the material was unfortunately consumed by fire.

No regular pastor succeeded until about 1854, when Mr. Dechandt came, and under his auspices the church was built, and dedicated by Rev. Bentz, acting in union with the "Albright Methodists" (Evangelical Association) until about 1859. This edifice, built rather for the use of the French element of the church, was sold not long afterward for a private residence. The pastors succeeding for a time, with occasional vacancies, were Revs. Fenneman, Schulze, Jaeckel (who was killed by being thrown out of a buggy), Stepler, Gehring, Huellhorst, Bolliger, P. Vitz, 1877-'83, since which time his son, J. Otto Vitz, has been pastor. This gentleman is a scholar of great talent and of polished manners.

Present membership, about 220; elders, F. Engeler, John Kohler and Philip Baumann; deacons, Daniel Buehler, Gottlieb Saurer, William Baumgartner and Benedict Lininger; Sunday-school superintendent, Frederick Engeler. Average attendance at Sunday-school, about seventy. A ladies' missionary society, with about twenty members, meets at the church once a month, and for sewing once a month at some private residence. Religious serv-

ices every Sunday. A fine two-story parsonage, built in 1880, is provided for the minister. The present prosperity of this church is greater than ever.

Mr. Vitz has charge of two other churches in this vicinity, both of which are in Adams County. St. Luke's, four and a half miles north and two east of Vera Cruz, was organized in 1857, by P. Vitz. Henry Billmann was the deacon. In 1870 that congregation was connected with the Vera Cruz charge. In 1871 the church building, a frame, was dedicated. Present membership, eighty-seven and a Sunday-school. The Church of the Cross, eleven miles southeast of Vera Cruz, is a frame structure, where there are about ninety members and a Sunday-school. The church was organized December 12, 1869, by Rev. F. Huellhorst.

The Evangelical Association at Vera Cruz was organized in 1853, under the ministry of S. Dickover, presiding elder, and Andrew Nicolai, preacher in charge, and John Fox, junior preacher, with a membership of twenty. The pastors since then have been, though not in the order here given, G. A. Hartel, John Fox, C. Claus, and then, in order, J. K. and E. R. Troyer, Jacob Miller (two years each), George Roederer and C. C. Baier (three years each) and John Hoffman, the present pastor, since March, 1886. Under Rev. Roederer's ministry was perhaps the greatest revival.

At present there are fifty-five members. Jacob Mosiman, class-leader; William Mertz, assistant class-leader and Sunday-school superintendent; J. I. Moser, Steward. Average attendance at Sunday-school, ninety-six. There is also an auxiliary missionary society.

The house of worship, a frame that will seat 250 persons, was dedicated in 1855, by Rev. George Platz. There is also a parsonage.

Mr. Hoffman has charge also of a society in the Gottschalk settlement, three and a half miles south of Vera Cruz. It was organized in 1853. Present membership, sixty-eight. Class-leader, Henry Shoemaker; exhorter, Henry Kreps; Sunday-school superintendent, John Blocker.

Mennonites, from Switzerland, who are said to be very exclusive in their religious views, have a society which meets in their church, about a mile north of Vera Cruz.

ROCKFORD.

This beautiful village of about ninety inhabitants is appropriately named, as it is situated at a ford where Rock Creek ripples poetically along over a fine rocky bed, and is in the southwest corner of Rock Creek Township, and about seven miles west of Bluffton. Postoffice, Barber's Mills. It was laid out September 21, 1849, by Solomon Johnson and Matthew Davis.

The present business of the place is conducted by Morgan Ware, general store; C. C. Swaim, postmaster, hardware and groceries; H. F. Lucabaugh, dry goods and groceries; William Johnson & Son, blacksmiths; Brown & Ware, tile factory, started about 1872; Braner Bros., tile factory, established about 1880, across the creek, east of Rockford; Redding & Coolman, tile factory, a mile and a half south of town, started in 1886; Milton Davis, saw-mill, across the creek, east of town, running since 1875; Drs. J. W. and C. H. English, physicians, both regular. An effort was once made to establish a saloon here, but was soon starved out.

In an early day Rev. Hallet Barber built a water-power saw and grist mill at Rockford, about twenty rods below the present bridge. Afterward an engine was put in, which in March, 1877, exploded, killing two men and wounding several others. Pyle & Brown

were the proprietors at the time. The mill was never rebuilt.

The school-house of brick is awkwardly situated about a half mile southwest of town, where school is taught seven months in the year, with an average attendance of sixty-five pupils, and only one teacher. To the common branches there are added history, civil government, physical geography, physiology, etc. Present trustee, William Miller.

The Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, a half mile north of town, is a substantial frame, 36 x 50 feet, erected during the pastorate of Rev. S. T. Stout, and dedicated in 1868 by Rev. W. E. McCarty. Other pastors serving here have been: Revs. Galbreth, Gillum, Ransey, Chester Church, C. Woolpert, George Clark, Charles H. Murray, R. W. Whitford, and the present is I. W. Singer. The greatest revival was under the ministrations of Rev. C. Woolpert. When the church was built, two classes were consolidated for the purpose, and the present name assumed. Membership at that time, sixty-five, now increased to ninety-six. Class-leader, John Sales; stewards, Jonas Redding, R. Pyle, Riley Stanton and William Gillum. Mrs. Bartmess, superintendent of Sunday-school, which has an average attendance of sixty.

The Rockford Reformed Church, 32 x 45 feet, is also situated north of the village about three-quarters of a mile. Membership, fifty or more. Pastor, Rev. Xanders, of Bluffton. Past ministers have been: Revs. John Naille, who dedicated the church, Wall, F. C. Withoff and Bretz.

The Seventh-Day Adventists in and about Rockford number about thirty-five, and are (April, 1887) intending to organize and build a church. They already have a Sunday-school, numbering from thirty-five to sixty-five, with Dr. J. W. Crum as superintendent. Attend-

ance at the social, thirty-five to forty. They also have a tract and missionary society of fifteen members. The following have preached for them, mostly as "tent elders": A. M. Shortridge, of Mechanicsburg; William Hill, of Rochester; L. Thompson, of Russellville, and F. M. Roberts, of West Liberty, all of this State.

St. Paul's Church, Reformed and Lutheran, is a neat brick edifice, about a mile east of the middle of the township, 40 x 55 feet, and was built in 1880, on a lot of ground donated by Abram Mast. It occupies the place of the smaller church built in 1857. The house is still used by both denominations.

The Sparks Methodist Episcopal Church, in the northern part of the township, has over fifty members and a house of worship, a frame, that will seat 250.

Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church, also in the northern part of Rock Creek Township, was built about 1875. Present elders, Joseph Seaman and Randall Schoonover; deacons, Jonathan Seaman and William Seott. Pastor, Rev. Waltman.

The Rock Creek Township Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized in 1875, with about forty members; Isaac Fishbaugh, President; Joseph Lesh, Secretary, and Harrison Duff, Treasurer. They have a sinking fund and lend their money, the interest on which has paid over \$3,000 in losses by fire and other incidental expenses, and in the spring of 1886 a surplus of \$500 was refunded to the insured. Present officers: President, Jacob Farling; Secretary, Joseph Lesh, who has held that office since organization; Treasurer, Isaac Fishbaugh.

The Rock Creek Township Horse-thief Detective Association was first organized about 1865, under the law, which arms every member with constabulary authority. Isaac

Church was organized April 6, 1860, by Rev. H. Wells, of Columbia City, who preached the first sermon, of this denomination, in Union Township. Only eleven persons comprised the membership at that time; present membership, about seventy-five. Pastors who have since served—Rev. A. J. Gromer, Fred. Biddle, J. G. Jacobi and W. Waltman, the present minister, who resides at Kendallville, and commenced his pastoral duties here in 1884.

The United Brethren Church was organized in 1855, in the school-house at Zanesville, by Rev. Gear, with only five members. William Haverstock was appointed class-leader and steward, and served in these relations many years; and he has been a trustee ever since the first church building was erected. The preachers in charge have been: Revs. Gear, McKee, Matthews, Bay, D. R. Miller, John Wagner, George Miller, T. B. Williams, S. T. Mahan, L. T. Johnston, R. G. Wilgnes, and Mr. Abbott, the present incumbent. Nearly all these were residents of Zanesville during their pastorate.

The old frame church, erected in 1857, is now Reed & Taylor's carriage factory. The present edifice, frame and brick combined, was dedicated in September, 1884, by Rev. J. W. Holt, from Dayton, Ohio. Its dimensions are 45 x 60 feet, and the building cost over \$3,000. There is also a parsonage. Present number of members, about 100. Sunday-school of fifty to sixty, presided over by A. M. Keplinger. David F. Thomas, local preacher. The greatest revivals were under Revs. Williams and George Miller.

The "Church of God" at Zanesville was organized about forty years ago, held meetings at private houses, the school-house, and in the United Brethren church, until 1868, when they erected a house of worship of their own, 32 x 44 feet. It was dedicated by

Rev. R. H. Bolton, of Western Ohio. Parsonage was bought in November, 1886. Present membership, about thirty-five. Sunday-school attendance, about forty; George Diffendaffer, superintendent; William Beaty, assistant superintendent. Elders, George Diffendaffer and Jacob Barnett. The pastors have been: Revs. W. W. Lovett, Elias Bryan, John Shock, George Smith, Isaac Markley, Mr. Fuller and Edward Miller, the present, since November, 1886. During the pastorate of Rev. Miller has occurred a great revival.

The Methodists had a small society here for a time.

The Church of the Disciples at Uniontown, a mile southeast of Zanesville, has been in existence since pioneer times. Present membership, sixty-five. Elders: William Walker, Thomas Berman, J. W. Walker and William Schoonover; deacons, Jacob S. Zion, George Zion, S. D. Cartwright and Joseph Redding. Sunday-school superintendent, G. W. Zion. Pastors have been: Thomas Berman, — Teeple, Aaron and Noah Walker, E. W. Hammond, Charles Austin, Mr. Newton and M. L. Blaney, of Kendallville, the present. The house of worship, a frame 32 x 36, was dedicated in 1853, by Elder Dowling.

The "Brethren" have a meeting-house about three or four miles southwest of Zanesville, called the "Eight-Mile District Brethren Church," with a society of twenty-two members. They organized in 1833, under the ministry of Rev. J. H. Bowman, of Kansas. Deacons: George A. G. Sonner and Ezekiel Roe. Pastor, Rev. W. M. M. Hamilton. They hold a half interest in the church building next described, from which they came. Services twice a month in the summer.

The German Baptist Church, two and a half miles southwest of Zanesville, a frame

40 x 55 feet, was erected in 1875. The membership is scattered and there is no shepherd.

The Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church, in Union Township, is a frame 35 x 50 feet. Dedicated in 1862, by Dr. Robinson, of Fort Wayne.

Lodge No. 517, F. & A. M., at Zanesville, has twenty-two members. Charter granted May 25, 1875. First officers: W. E. Angevine, W. M.; James M. Young, S. W.; E. J. Felts, J. W.; D. B. Ward, Treasurer; J. E. F. Thomas, Secretary; Cyrus Young, S. D.; William Shoup, J. D.; C. B. Austin, Chaplain; Benj. Hamilton, Steward. Present officers: Cyrus Young, W. M.; M. C. Hamilton, S. W.; William Pratt, J. W.; William J. Beaty, S. D.; James Simonton, J. D.; John McClave, Steward; James K. P. Shepherd, Tyler.

Odd Fellowship is also flourishing in Zanesville.

Union Township was organized in 1847, immediately after the land was brought into market from the Miami Indian reservation. The settlers in 1847 were: William Rosseau, who afterward moved into Allen County; James Edmundson, deceased, who settled on the Indianapolis road, near Eight-Mile Creek; John Wandel, who moved to Bluffton; Joseph Rich, deceased; Joseph Davis, moved away; Milton Davis, moved West; E. Bagley and Jacob Dewitt. In 1848 A. Housel, who moved near Ossian; William Walker, still living; John Felts, now living at Benton Harbor, Michigan; William Bell, deceased; S. B. Caley, now living near Murray; Henry Chrismore, died many years ago; Simon Krewson; and about the same time, Michael Mason; James Cartwright, dead; L. S. Walker, who lives in Allen County; and Robert McBride, also deceased.

The first justice of the peace was Joseph Rich.

UNIONDALE,

a village of 150 inhabitants, three miles west of Kingsland, on the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad, was surveyed and platted in 1882, and George C. Ditzler established a saw-mill on the southwest corner of the Gardenour farm, leasing two acres and employing at the mill about fifty hands and ten to twelve teams. It was the largest saw-mill in the county. He sawed the lumber for the first business house at Uniondale. Present capacity of the mill, 15,000 feet a day. Average number of hands employed, twenty, with six to eight teams.

Mr. Ditzler also built the first residence at the place, and has cut the material for all the houses there. Henry W. Lipkey erected the first business house, and when the postoffice was established there, January 21, 1886, he was appointed postmaster, and he is also ticket agent for the railroad. The general store is kept by him and William Newhard.

Joseph Yost, the first harness-maker here, opened his shop in 1885. The grain dealer is William Newhard, who has a small warehouse. George Meixel, the first landlord, runs the Union House, which he opened in 1884 (the village was first called Union), and has also a livery stable.

There are also a blacksmith shop and a wagon shop.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church at Uniondale is in Rock Creek Township. Membership probably half a hundred. Pastor, Rev. W. Waltman.

BANNER

is another new village recently sprung up on the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad, a mile west of Uniondale; was named by the editor, Mr. Roth, of the Bluffton *Banner*, in honor of his paper, and now has about 150 inhabitants.

It is on the line dividing Union and Rock Creek townships.

The first business house established here was started by Levi Waikel, who is now running a saw-mill, as well as a general store. He also built the first residence.

The railroad has not yet established a station here.

KINGSLAND

is the railroad station at the crossing of the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville and the Chicago & Atlantic railroads.

The *Presbyterian Church* here will seat about 250, and was dedicated in the spring of 1887. The society was organized in November, 1886, and now has a membership of forty-four. Elders, Daniel K. Hanna, Donaldson Wilson, David T. Wasson and Evan L. Chalfant. They have also a Sunday-school.

TOCSIN,

a village on the Chicago & Atlantic, five miles east of Kingsland, was platted in 1882 by Michael C. Blue. Samuel Kunkle was the proprietor of forty acres, and he first laid it out into lots. Mr. Kunkle was also the first postmaster, and the first to open a store and hotel. J. A. Bowman, the present postmaster, was appointed in February, 1887. He is now the only merchant of the place, and he keeps a general stock of goods; has also a warehouse. A good saw and planing mill exists here.

Dr. N. Bergman is the first physician; Dr. S. D. Beaver is a young man just from Adams County.

The township school-house is at one corner of the village.

Population, about 150.

This is a place of some importance, as there is nearly a mile of switch here, and it is the point where railroad trains pass.

The first child born in Tocsin was in the family of Samuel Kunkle.

MURRAY.

This is the postoffice name, and becoming the exclusive popular name of the old village of Lancaster, sometimes called New Lancaster, the oldest point in Wells County. The oldest resident here is Mrs. Sally Aker, formerly Mrs. Harvey, who came here in 1833. Jacob Miller is probably the next. Another man of the same name settled here before him, but moved to Missouri, and is not now living. For the other first settlers here, see the general chapter on "Early Settlement."

Murray was laid out by Jesse Gerhard, October 17, 1839, and subsequently W. H. Deam and Mr. Matthews made additions. The town is pleasantly situated on the north bank of the Wabash, but has not been prosperous for many years, as it is near the county seat and no railroad has ever touched it. Population, about 150.

The business interests are conducted by Lewis F. Shreve, dry goods; Peter Clemence and George C. Webber, shoe shops; Webber & Harnish, drug store; J. N. Fink, blacksmith; James Sutton, postmaster; J. C. Fulton, physician, and the two following mills:

Stafford & Eversole's grist-mill was first built in 1837, the first in the county, by Jesse Gerhard. It has several times since been remodeled. It has two run of burrs, and is still run by water-power. The present firm formed their partnership in November, 1885.

L. I. Staver, since 1882, with a twenty horse-power engine, finds employment for three or four hands in a saw-mill which was built three or four years previously by George Ditzler and Peter Clemence.

The present school-house, brick, erected in

1884, is occupied half the year by fifty to sixty pupils.

The first school in this township was taught in the winter of 1838-'39, by A. B. Waugh, in a log cabin with puncheon floor, inside mud and stick chimney, and greased paper which served as window lights. This cabin was situated on the Harvey farm.

The principal church at Murray is the United Presbyterian. It was organized June 16, 1846, by Rev. J. F. Kerr, of the Michigan Presbytery, with fourteen members, and John Ogden and John Fulton as elders. Since then it has seen some prosperity, having as high as eighty members when Rev. Mr. Glenn was pastor, but at present there are only twenty members, who meet only occasionally. They have no pastor at present. The elders are Matthew and Henry Park and John Ogden. The principal pastors have been Revs. John D. Glenn, David Morrow, Robert Gray, Mr. Main and James McCrea. The house of worship is a frame, 32 x 52 feet, and was completed in 1855, during the pastorate of Mr. Morrow. Sunday-schools are maintained during the summer.

The Presbyterian Church is a frame, 40 x 50 feet, dedicated in 1861, by Rev. Wilson M. Donaldson. The membership, which has been nearly a hundred, has so diminished that no pastor is maintained. A small Sunday-school, of perhaps twenty-five pupils, is sustained during the summer, with Archibald Waugh as superintendent.

The Christian Church, across the river, is a frame, 36 x 40 feet, and dedicated in 1865, by Elder Peter Weinbrenner. The membership, once nearly a hundred, has so diminished that no regular services are maintained. Sunday-school in summer. Among the ministers serving there have been Revs. James Atehison, Peter Weinbrenner, Thomas Whitman, J. J. Markley and James Greer.

The United Brethren Church (Salem), about two miles north of the center of the township of Lancaster, on land donated by James Dailey, has been burned down twice. It was first burned during the war, was rebuilt in 1872, and July 22, 1874, it was burned by an incendiary; loss, over \$1,500.

First justices of the peace in Lancaster Township, 1841 and after, were James Dailey and Benjamin Brown.

KEYSTONE

is a small hamlet on the railroad near the center of Chester Township, where W. H. Templeton and Eph Ruth keep general stores, F. P. Risley a drug store, James Bell, the station agent, a grocery, James Jackson a blacksmith shop, and John Dougherty & Co., of Bluffton, a saw-mill, which is doing a lively business. C. B. Abshire has a warehouse. Mr. Templeton is the postmaster. Population, about 150.

A good brick school-house exists near Keystone, costing about \$900.

Keystone, which, after an exciting contest, was finally named in honor of the Keystone State, was laid out April 19, 1872, by Luther Twibell, an old pioneer.

The Methodist Protestant Church here was organized in 1883-'84, with ten members, which has since been increased to forty. Sunday-school, about sixty pupils; Henry Cottrill, superintendent. Robert Travis and O. P. French, local preachers. Pastors have been: Rev. J. C. McLin and T. F. Ransopher, the incumbent since September, 1886. Church building is 32 x 44 feet in dimensions and was erected in 1885, at a cost of \$1,200.

The United Brethren Church was organized in the winter of 1886, with about fifty members. Meet in the Methodist Protestant church every two weeks. Rev. E. Baldue is

the pastor. Sunday-school, with thirty-five pupils, is superintended by Henry Cottrill, in unison with the Protestant Methodists; Mollie Ransopher, assistant superintendent; class-leader, Rev. B. R. B. Holcom; steward, William Twibell. This church also has a strong society at Mt. Zion, a hamlet in the northwest corner of Chester Township.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, east of Keystone, was organized about thirty years ago. It has now about twenty-seven members, with William Ellsworth as deacon and Arthur Scott as clerk. The building was erected in 1875, costing about \$1,000.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP.

In addition to the history of Bluffton there is very little to say concerning this township. The churches are noticed elsewhere, except the German Baptist on Six-Mile Creek, which still keeps up its organization.

The first settlers in this township, within its present limits, were: Charles Bennett and Thomas W. Van Horn, in 1834; Gabriel Markley, John Markley and R. C. Bennett, Sr., in 1835; Adam Miller, James Guthrie and Ahmon Case, in 1836; John Burgess, Michael Myers, A. W. Johnson and Daniel Miller, in 1837; Michael Whitmer, John Studabaker, Amos Townsend and C. Chalfant, in 1838; Nelson Kellogg, William Studabaker, John A. Deam and William Foncanon, in 1839.

This township, like Rock Creek, embraced a large extent of territory, and when first organized, in July, 1837, comprised besides its present limits all of Nottingham and the east three-fourths of Lancaster and Jefferson townships. As these townships were severally organized, Harrison retained its name without further organization.

The first election was held at the house of

Adam Miller, with Thomas W. Van Horn as inspector.

NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP.

The first settler in this township was Joseph Blacklege, in 1837; Abram Stahl, John Nutter, Jacob Warner, Lyman Bass, Peter Garner, Hezekiah Grimes, Isaac Haynes, Edward Haynes, Robert Smith, William Nutter and John Dawson came in 1838, Alonzo Lockwood, John Warner and others in 1840. Blacklege is deceased; Stahl died in 1856; John Nutter was living in Ohio at last accounts; Warner is still living, in this township; the rest have died, most of them long ago. William Stahl, who resides in the extreme southwestern corner of the township, may be now considered one of the oldest settlers.

The township was organized January 4, 1841, and the first election was held that year in the Hite cabin, on section 14, when fifteen votes were cast.

A German Baptist Church exists in this township, of which Jacob Warner, Amos Garrett and John Shigley have been prominent members. Their house of worship is a frame and was erected in 1870.

CHESTER TOWNSHIP.

This township was organized March 1, 1841, when the first election was held, at the house of Jonas Jarrett.

The first settlers were: Henry McCullick, deceased; Newton Putnam, who left the county a few years ago; Alphens T. Stevens, who moved away; Wilson Brown, Thomas Blunt, died long ago, and Joseph Blunt went to Kansas; these all came in 1836. In 1837 came John Lancaster and Benj. Starr, who are still living here, and Jonas Jarrett, who died several years ago. In 1838, Isaac Lancaster, who did not long remain; Alex. Walk-

er, who is still here; John McCullick, who went to Wisconsin a number of years ago, and J. Brotherton, who moved away and afterward died. In 1839, Levi Phillips, who moved to Wisconsin and died; Franklin Spaulding, deceased several years ago, and James Jordan, dead long ago. In 1840, Samuel and Nathan Rice, both deceased, and Thomas Hulet, who died three years ago. In 1841 arrived Joseph H. McGrath, who died here, and Sewell Snow, who died several years ago. In 1842, Daniel and Joseph Sells, both deceased, and James Bell, the present station agent, who has been elected county commissioner twice and appointed once.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

This has obtained the *sobriquet* of the "lost township," on account of the counties around it being so arranged that it could not be attached to any of them without forming an awkward projection. Chester Township was at first included under this name.

The first settlers were Nathaniel Batson, Daniel Jones and Leander Morrison, in 1836; Elijah Y. Graves, Christopher Miller, Philip Roush, Isaac Wright and Andrew Morrison, in 1873; Richard McIntire, Nun McIntire and Robert Alexander, in 1838; Dorsey Mason, in 1839.

The principal stream of the township is the Salamonie, which affords good drainage as well as stone for building purposes. The bottom lands along the stream are noted for their fertility and excellence. The first road opened was known as the Bluffton road, which commenced at the northeast corner of section

29, and ran northeasterly through the township.

In the year 1839 two school-houses were built, one at the center of the township, and the other in the east end. The first school was taught by James Wright.

Several churches have flourished in Jackson Township, as the Bethel (United Brethren), with nearly a hundred members, the German Baptist, at Sugar Grove, also with seventy or more members, and the Protestant Methodist, with about the same number. Their houses of worship are new.

Union Chapel, Methodist Protestant, near the center of the township, has a membership of 148. Class-leader, Mr. Miller; steward, Daniel Stroup. Two local preachers, William Cnstard and William Ray. Their church building, 34 x 48 feet, frame, was erected in 1879.

Mt. Zion, an initial village at the northeast corner of the township, contains a church owned by the United Brethren, where the Methodist Protestants have a membership of fifty-three. Class-leader, Dr Morrison; steward, Thomas Arnold.

OTHER SMALL POINTS.

Eagleville, a mile north of Murray, was laid out by William J. Kirkpatrick, November 18, 1854.

Craigville was laid out by William Hartman and Peter Hetrich, April 21, 1879.

Coreyville on the east county line, was laid out by J. P. Drum and Peter Corey, March 25, 1859. The United Brethren church, near this place, is a frame, erected in 1877, and is free for all orthodox Christians.



BIOGRAPHICAL
—
SKETCHES.





Bonnie Hale

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

BOWEN HALE, of Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana, was born in Mason County, Kentucky, July 4, 1801. His father, John Hale, was born in Maryland, and was a son of James Hale, a native of England, who immigrated to America and located in Maryland, and subsequently removed with his family to Kentucky. Being a slave-holder, he carried with him a number of slaves, but being opposed to involuntary servitude, he here set his slaves free, after they had cleared his farm and had made a home for him. He passed the remainder of his days on this farm. In 1802 his widow removed to Greene County, Ohio, with her son, with whom she made her home, afterward removing to Randolph County, Indiana, where she died some six years later. John Hale, the father of our subject, was married in Kentucky to Sarrah Bowen, a native of Pennsylvania, of Welsh ancestry. She died January 2, 1813. They had three sons—James Hale, of Randolph County, Indiana, born about the year 1799, died in 1882; Bowen Hale, the subject of our sketch, and Silas Hale, of Greene County, Ohio, born in

the year 1803; he still lives near and owns the old homestead in that county. John Hale removed to Greene County, Ohio, in the year 1802, where he followed farming and tanning until the year 1837; he then removed to Whitley County, Indiana, where he entered 1,120 acres of land from the Government in Whitley and Kosciusko counties, and built a saw and grist-mill, the first in that section of the country. In 1812 he joined a rifle company as a volunteer soldier, and served in Northern Ohio for one year. He died in Whitley County, Indiana, on his farm, at the age of seventy-three years. Bowen Hale, the subject of our sketch, was only one year old when his father removed to Greene County, Ohio. Here his youth was passed on his father's farm near the now old town of Bellbrook, assisting his father in the tannery and on the farm; here, too, in a log school-house in the neighborhood, he received what education he possessed, which was sufficient to enable him to teach school as schools were taught in those days, he having filled that important position for a few months on the occasion of the sickness of the regular teach-

er. He remained with his father, his mother having died when he was quite young, until he reached his majority, when he left home and learned the chair-making business, which he followed for several years, working in Dayton, Xenia and Cincinnati. During this time too he took a trip South, going down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in a steamboat. In the State of Mississippi he followed house-painting, having become skilled in that trade while painting chairs in the shop. After his return from this trip he engaged in the mercantile business in Bellbrook, Ohio, until 1834, when he sold his interest in the store, and came to Wells County, Indiana, in 1835, his physician having advised him to go West for his health, telling him that unless he did so he could not hope to live very long, consequently he started into the woods to seek a home. He came down the Wabash River, and being charmed with the fertile lands along the Wabash, he stopped near the town of Murray and resolved to make this his home. His father three years later passed by these lands and settled on the higher and more broken lands in Whitley County. Here Mr. Hale entered forty acres of land, hired a man to build him a cabin, and started to Cincinnati for a stock of goods, having resolved to start a trading point to trade with the Indians and the few white inhabitants in the county, there being only about twelve white families within the limits of Wells County. On his return, in the spring of 1836, he found that his cabin had not been built; but he went to work, and with the assistance of Henry Miller and others, he soon had a comfortable cabin, suitable for store-room and living-room. His customers were mostly Indians, who were peaceable, yet, like all good Indians, were dangerous when filled with fire-water, dishonest and treacherous at all times. His stock of dry goods,

consisting of brass rings, whisky and such articles of clothing as the Indians usually wore, were converted into pelts, there being but little money in the country. These pelts were conveyed usually on Henry Miller's wagon to Dayton, Ohio, or Cincinnati, and there sold. As a matter of course he left nothing behind in his cabin, as the Indians ransacked that as soon as he was gone. The trip to Dayton and Cincinnati usually took about three weeks or longer. Although Mr. Hale had made his home in this wild country, and in common with all that hardy race of pioneers, the first settlers of Wells County, had many narrow escapes from wild animals and wild men, yet he was strictly a man of peace, and never was a hunter, and tells with considerable satisfaction that he never killed but one deer in his life, and that he stood in the door of his cabin and shot. Seeing the deer quietly grazing in front of his door, an Indian who was present picked up his gun to shoot it, when Mr. Hale asked him to let him shoot, and he took his gun and shot, killing the deer. He often said he had all the hunting he wanted in keeping the turkeys, squirrels and other animals out of his corn fields. Mr. Hale was first married in 1837 to Miss Sarah James, a native of Virginia, who died in two years and three months after her marriage, without children. In the year 1840 he married Miss Mary Ann Deam, of Montgomery County, Ohio, a daughter of Adam Deam, probably from Virginia, who afterward removed to Wells County and settled near Murray and built the first grist-mill at that place. Adam Deam had four sons—Abram, William, John and James P. William and James P. each served as treasurer of Wells County; and four daughters, Rachel, Mary Ann, Harriet and Ann. Mrs. Hale died in the year 1872, leaving Mr. Hale again a widower. They had eight chil-

dren, seven of whom survive—John D., clerk of Adams County; Hon. Silas W., of Geneva, Adams County; James P., of Bluffton; Lewis B., residing on the old homestead; Emerillas, wife of A. R. Vanemon; Jane, the wife of Daniel Markley, and Mary, living at home with her father. At the organization of Wells County, in 1837, Bowen Hale was elected to the offices of auditor, clerk and recorder, or rather these three offices were then combined in one. He continued to hold these three offices until 1841, when an auditor was elected and he was relieved of the duties of that office. Ten years later Wilson M. Bulger was elected recorder, leaving Mr. Hale with the office of clerk, which he continued to hold until 1855, making a total of twenty years in the clerk's office alone, his time having expired by the limit of the Constitution, and although urged to accept it again he declined to do so. He also for a short time during this period held the office of postmaster, he being the first postmaster in the county. In the year 1858 he was elected to the office of magistrate and filled the office for three years. Again, in the year 1865, he was elected, against his wishes, to the office of county commissioner; he being indisposed at the time, was not even aware that he was a candidate until the day of his election. Thus is his history the history of Wells County; coming into public life before the organization of the county, for twenty-six years he was a servant of the people of Wells County, and her interest was his interest, and to say that he did his work well is wholly unnecessary; the people have said as much by their ballots; never were the affairs of any county better or more honestly administered. His records are neat, legible, perfectly formed, accurate, complete and excite the admiration of the most skilled attorneys. When he removed from his farm near Murray he brought his

dry goods store with him and continued in that business for a short time, his store being a log cabin on Market street, the town being then in the woods with heavy timber and thick underbrush in all the streets. Hon. John Studabaker became his rival in business, his store being also on Market street, and they cleared the brush out of the street so that they might be able to see from their boarding-house, a square away, to their respective places of business. Mr. Hale tells, among many instances of his early pioneer life, of a young limb of the law who landed in Bluffton with the avowed intention of practicing his chosen profession. He sought Mr. Hale and asked permission to make the clerk's office his law office for a short time, which request was granted, and the young lawyer sat down to work. Concluding it would be well to advertise his business, he wrote his card on a sheet of paper and posted the same on a tree standing at the crossing of Main and Market streets. When Mr. Hale went to supper he walked up and read it, and after the young lawyer's name, in large letters, were the words "Eterney at Law." Mr. Hale informed the young man of his mistake, who immediately tore down the advertisement and left town; he located in an adjoining county, and now bears the honorable title of "Judge." Thus, by a mistake in spelling, the town lost a lawyer, judge and citizen. Mr. Hale was always a Democrat, his first vote for President being cast for Andrew Jackson. He never was, however, much of a politician, according to the usual application of that term, and never electioneered for himself; it is said that he once started out for that purpose, but was so disgusted with the business that after going a few miles in the country he turned his horse toward home and never tried it again. When the civil war broke out two of Mr. Hale's sons enlisted,

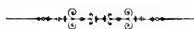
and at the battle of Mission Ridge John D. was shot through the body, and lay in the hospital at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mr. Hale, even then an old man, went to Chattanooga and brought him home. In 1858 Mr. Hale retired with his family to his farm, where he still lives at the ripe old age of eighty-six years. Truly he has been a faithful servant to the people of Wells County; has served them long and well, and he in return has been well rewarded by the love and confidence of the people. His strict economy has enabled him to lay up sufficient property to keep him comfortable in his old age, and his temperate habits have given him strength of mind and body, enabling him to endure the hardships of pioneer life and to resist the ravages of disease, and now at the age of eighty-six his mind is clear, his memory good, his hand steady and he is in the full enjoyment of all his senses, with a prospect of many more years of a happy existence. In his earlier life he became a member of the Universalist church, and was for many years a trustee of that church at Bluffton, and is still a believer in the doctrines as taught by Ballou, Chapin and others. He also joined the Masonic lodge at Bluffton, and was for many years a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, and still believes in their teachings and lives in the hope of a blessed immortality.

WILLIAM DOUGHERTY, deceased, father of Hon. Hugh and John Dougherty, who are classed among the active and enterprising men of Bluffton, was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1820, a son of Hugh Dougherty. His parents were natives of Ireland,

the mother being of Scotch-Irish ancestry. They left their native country for America in 1818, bringing with them their only child, Betsy, who is so well and favorably known as Aunt Betsy Miller, she having married the late Daniel Miller, and both were numbered among the pioneers of Wells County. Six children were born to the parents of our subject after coming to America—Margaret, widow of John Tillman; William, whose name heads this sketch; Hugh, deceased; John, of Jay County; Anna, wife of Crawford Edington, a merchant of Poneto, Indiana, and Edward, deceased. The father first settled in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where he followed farming until 1831. In that year he removed with his family to Darke County, Ohio, and settled on a farm near Greenville, where he died about 1833. William Dougherty was reared to the avocation of a farmer in Darke County, Ohio. He was united in marriage June 7, 1841, to Miss Margaret Studabaker, of Darke County, where she died August 15, 1860, at the age of thirty-nine years. Mr. Dougherty became a resident of Adams County, Indiana, in 1874, where he made his home until his death, which occurred June 2, 1879, at the age of fifty-nine years.

THOMAS WALLACE, deceased, was a native of Ireland, born in county Donegal, January 1, 1813, a son of James and Nancy (McClure) Wallace, who were natives of the same country. He grew to manhood in his native land, remaining with his parents until after his majority, and in his youth received a common-school education by attending the schools of his neighborhood. In 1833 he accompanied his father's

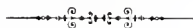
family to America, they locating in Wayne County. Two years later our subject came to Wells County, Indiana, and entered ninety acres of Government land in Rock Creek Township, which he cleared and improved. He was united in marriage in 1851 to Miss Agnes Crosby, a native of Berwickshire, Scotland, and a daughter of Thomas and Christina (Kelley) Crosby, who left Scotland for America in the year 1850. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, of whom only four survive, their names being as follows—Christiana, Maggie, Mary and Martha. Mr. Wallace followed agricultural pursuits on his farm in Rock Creek Township until 1864, when he retired from active life and removed to Bluffton, where he made his home until his death. He was an active and consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. Mrs. Wallace is also a member of the Presbyterian church. In his political views Mr. Wallace affiliated with the Republican party. He was an active and public-spirited citizen, and was always interested in any enterprise for the benefit or advancement of his town or county.



JOHN LANCASTER, retired farmer, Chester Township, was born in Warren County, Ohio, February 24, 1810, son of John and Rachel (Haskett) Lancaster. His father was born and reared in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and when he was twenty years of age went to Florida with two friends, and was there married to a daughter of David Brown, who died in that country. He afterward removed to South Carolina, where he worked at his trade, that of shoemaker and tanner, and was there married to Rachel

Haskett. They remained several years in South Carolina, and in 1796 removed with their four children to Miami County, Ohio, settling about seven miles southwest of Troy. They traveled the entire distance by team. When they went through Cincinnati, that great city of to-day, there were only about seven cabins on the hill, and the residents tried very hard to get the travelers to remain there. Dayton was on their route, and it also contained but few cabins, and Major Williams, a noted man of that day, was the storekeeper. When they settled in Miami County they were far removed from white neighbors, and quite near the Indians. They lived there eight or ten years, then removed to Warren County, where again they were early settlers. In 1820 they moved to Clinton County, near Wilmington, and in March, 1833, they sold their property and came to Grant County, Indiana, locating upon the spot where Marion now stands. The father died in the fall of that year, and on the 9th day of September his wife started back to Miami County, where she died at her brother's in 1840. She was born and reared on Bush River, South Carolina. John followed the fortunes of the family for some time after his marriage, taking care of his mother in her last days. In 1837 he came to Wells County and camped out until fall. In the meantime he cleared six acres of land and hauled the logs to the place selected for his cabin, which he built that fall. Wolves, bears, deer and all kinds of wild game were abundant. He has killed as many as 500 deer in Wells County, and also several bears. There was a corn-cracker at Warren, fourteen miles distant, but he frequently had to go to Fort Wayne, and even to Cambridge, seventy-five miles away, to get his milling done. He at one time paid \$18 for 100 pounds of flour and a barrel of salt. He

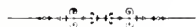
was married in Clinton County, Ohio, March 1, 1833, to Miss Ruth Shields, a native of Berkeley County, Virginia, and a daughter of John and Ann (Robison) Shields, natives of Virginia, and of Irish descent. Her parents removed to Clinton County when she was but a year old, and from there they moved to Wilmington, the county seat, where her mother died in 1823, and her father in September, 1844. Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster, only four are living. Nathan married Mary Stone; Amariah married Matilda Holloway; Susan is the wife of William McIntyre, and lives near Mill Grove, Blackford County, and Mary Miranda is now Mrs. Van Horn. The deceased are—John William, Martha Ann, George and Lewis. John William was a member of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry during the late war. He lay sick at Murfreesboro a long time, was brought on the cars to Huntington, and from there in a spring wagon, dying the third day after reaching home. He left a wife, formerly Margaret Helms, and one child. Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster are members of the Christian church, and in politics he is a Republican.



WILLIAM J. NEWHARD, merchant at Uniondale, came in 1859, with his wife and three children, from Mahoning County, Ohio, and made a location in Union Township, Wells County, Indiana. He purchased his land, which was all in the green with the exception of ten acres. He was a farmer in Ohio, and followed that avocation for many years after locating in Indiana. His cabin was the first that was built upon his land, and is still standing, one of the few monuments of pioneer life to be seen in that

neighborhood. His parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Weaver) Newhard, were natives of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and in the borough of Allentown our subject was born. While residing in Pennsylvania Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Newhard became the parents of three sons and one daughter—Samuel F., William J., Dillworth and Ellen M. In 1837 the family removed to Trumbull, now Mahoning County, Ohio, and there another son was born—Charles W. The death of the mother occurred in that county, but the father is still living, at the ripe old age of eighty-three years. William J. is the only child that came to this State. December 15, 1853, he married Miss Mary A., daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Hart) Ashburn, and they became the parents of seven children, six of whom are living—Sarah E., wife of Enoch Taylor; Henry N., who married Ollie Cotton, and William F. were born in Ohio; Emma E., deceased, wife of Clark Scott, Samuel W., who married Annie Meeks, Ida B. and Osear O. were born in this county. Mrs. Newhard died August 18, 1874, and in October, 1875, Mr. Newhard married Miss Eliza Crum, of Mahoning County, Ohio. After coming to Wells County Mr. Newhard made several purchases of land, and now owns 220 acres of finely improved land. After the new town of Uniondale was platted, in 1883, he began to purchase grain, and was the first to engage in that business in the village. In 1884 he built a residence in the village, leaving his sons, Henry H. and Samuel W., in charge of the farm. Prior to his removal to Uniondale he had formed a partnership with Henry W. Lippey in the mercantile business, and this enterprise was the first of its kind in the new town. In 1884 Mr. W. F. Newhard became associated with his father in the grain trade, and in 1886 Mr. Lippey also became a partner. Mr. Newhard was elected

justice of the peace of Union Township in 1877, and served four years. He has never been an aspirant for official positions, but attends strictly to his business. Since August, 1886, he has purchased and shipped thirty-eight carloads. This enterprise is steadily growing, and a warehouse, 16 x 35 feet, was built in 1884. In March, 1886, a postoffice was established at Uniondale, chiefly through his instrumentality, and Henry W. Lippey was appointed postmaster, Mr. Newhard serving as deputy. The office is located in their store, making it a central place for trade. Mr. Newhard is not only a pioneer farmer, but is one of the first business men of Uniondale, one of the most thriving villages of its size along the line of the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad.



JACOB WARNER, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in the town of Washington, Pickaway County, Ohio, November 17, 1812, son of Leonard and Eve (Biddle) Warner, of German ancestry, who removed from Pennsylvania to Pickaway County, where they passed the remainder of their days. The father died about 1837, and the mother about 1874. Jacob was reared in his native county, and commenced his career on the farm when so young that he had to reach up to take hold of the plow-handle. In 1836 he left Ohio, and with wife and one child started for Indiana by team, and after a trip of seven days arrived at their new home, which was about a half mile north of their present home. Mr. Warner had entered 160 acres of land from the Government prior to removing here, and after his arrival he entered eighty acres more for two young men who assisted him in clearing his farm. The first year he suc-

ceeded in getting about fifteen acres cleared, which gave him a good start. He brought with him two bushels of corn and one bushel of potatoes, which was all he was able to get until he raised these articles for himself. He worked away, adding a little to the clearing each year, until he now owns 240 acres of land, with 150 acres cleared. He used to go to Winchester, a distance of thirty miles, to get his milling done, and in order to get there he and his neighbors had to clear the way through the forest. Mr. Warner was married in 1836 to Miss Rebecca Gilbert, a native of Adams County, Pennsylvania, who died in March, 1848. By this union were six children, three living—Leonard, Jonathan, who resides in Brown County, Kansas, and David. The deceased are—Benton, Daniel, and one that died in infancy. Mr. Warner was married to his present wife in 1849. She was formerly Miss Sarah Gehrett, a native of Berks County, Pennsylvania, and daughter of Henry and Susanna (Feehan) Gehrett. Her father died in that county, and her mother died in Fairfield County, Ohio. To this union ten children were born, six of whom are living—Rebecca, wife of Sylvester Meyers; Samuel, who married Louisa Keller; Jacob, who married Josie Karnes; Henry, husband of Sarepta J. Ninde; Eve, now Mrs. George King, and Andrew, who married Ida Smith. The deceased are—George, Andrew, Sarah and Susanna. Mr. Warner has been identified with the interests of Wells County for more than half a century, and has witnessed its growth from the time it was a wilderness, containing the Indian wigwams, until it has arrived at its present prosperous condition. In early days he was accustomed to shoulder his rifle and kill deer and other game, which was the only meat the country afforded. He was the first supervisor of Nottingham Township, and served as its trustee for many

years. He has been a life-long Democrat, and has never changed his political faith. He is the oldest pioneer in the township.

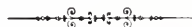
PHILIP EICHHORN, deceased, was born in Baden, Germany, June 8, 1808, a son of John and Philicia (Berkeheiker) Eichhorn. He was reared on a farm in his native country, remaining there until 1835, when he immigrated to America and located in Crawford County, Ohio, where he was married January 8, 1837, to Miss Margaret Hassler, a daughter of Frederick and Barbara (Baker) Hassler, who were also natives of Germany. They left their native home May 8, 1833, in the ship Everhart, and after a voyage of ninety days, landed at Baltimore, August 8 following. From Baltimore they started by team for Crawford County, Ohio, and four weeks later arrived at Mansfield. Here Mr. Hassler purchased a farm, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their days. After his marriage Mr. Eichhorn settled on his father-in-law's farm, where he resided until coming to Wells County, Indiana, in March, 1864, where he purchased 460 acres of land in Rock Creek Township, and about the same time he bought 360 acres of land in Huntington County, and spent the rest of his life on his farm in Rock Creek Township. He died October 11, 1864. In politics he always affiliated with the Democratic party. He was an earnest member of the Reformed church, his wife being yet a member of the same church. She was born November 14, 1816, and is still living in Wells County at the age of seventy years. Mr. and Mrs. Eichhorn had born to them nine children as follows—Frederick, William, John, Daniel, Elizabeth, Mary, David, Mar-

garet and Philip A. Frederick was born November 17, 1839, and died July 10, 1870. He was married and was the father of three children. The date of William's birth was March 25, 1841. John was born December 28, 1842, was married and had two children. He died March 15, 1879. Daniel was born October 23, 1844. He is married and has a family of six children. Elizabeth was born February 15, 1847, was married, and died January 2, 1872. Mary was born August 27, 1851, and is now the wife of Eli Houtz. David was born September 11, 1852, is married, and has four children. Margaret was born August 8, 1855, and was the wife of Uriah Mast. She died May 6, 1874. Philip A. was born March 9, 1856. He was married and had two children. He is also deceased, his death taking place March 25, 1883.

JOHN W. QUICK, one of the early settlers of Lancaster Township, residing on section 31, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Northumberland County, in January, 1821, a son of James and Jane Quick, who were natives of New Jersey and Pennsylvania respectively. The mother died on the old homestead in Pennsylvania about fifty years ago, and the father died not many years ago at the home of his son Levi, in Missouri. Of their eight children who grew to maturity John W., our subject, was the eldest. Three sons and one daughter are still living. The youth of our subject was spent in working on the old homestead in his native State, attending the subscription school as opportunity afforded. When seventeen years old he went with his father's family to Franklin County, Indiana, and one year later removed to Henry County, and after remaining there

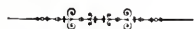
one year the family located in Fayette County. There our subject helped his father to clear a farm in the wilderness, when he left the home roof and began working for himself. He was married in Union County, August 22, 1847, to Miss Cordelia Beeler, who was reared in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Quick lived in Madison County, Indiana, a few years, clearing a farm from the wilderness, which they sold, and came to Wells County, settling on their farm on section 31, Lancaster Township, in November, 1854. That year he occupied a log cabin, and the following year he settled in a more commodious log house on the site of his present fine residence, which was erected in 1873, and is one of the best in his neighborhood. February 23, 1863, his wife, who had helped him to build two pioneer homes, died. She was a consistent member of the Methodist church from her youth, and always lived a practical Christian life in all her relations as wife, mother and neighbor. She left three children—Julia E., wife of Robert Reynolds; Emma R., living in Kansas, is the widow of E. A. Pattison, and Anna E., wife of Bruce W. Shoemaker. For his second wife Mr. Quick married Miss Nancy Reasor, in October, 1866. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio, June 18, 1838, a daughter of John and Sarah Reasor, who came to Wells County, Indiana, in 1854, and are now living in Nottingham Township. By his second marriage Mr. Quick has six children—Clara May, Ina V., Lina B., Charles C., John F. and James. Both Mr. and Mrs. Quick are members of the Baptist church. In early days Mr. Quick was a Whig in his political affiliations, later a Republican, but during the past few years he has been a pronounced Prohibitionist. As a citizen Mr. Quick is highly respected. Honorable and upright in all business transactions, kindly in intercourse with all, he is

held in high esteem by all who know him. His home is provided with all the necessary comforts of life, the result of a life of frugality and industry.



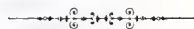
DR. IEZEKIAH DOSTER was born July 6, 1843, in Somersetshire, England. He immigrated with his parents to the United States of America in July, 1848, and came to Wells County, Indiana, in August, 1852, where he still resides. Received a common-school education from the district schools, also attended the high school near Portland, Jay County, Indiana, known as Liber College, conducted by Ebenezer Tucker, from 1860 to 1865, and taught during the winters of same period. He commenced the study of his profession in 1865, under Drs. James R. McCleery and Charles T. Melsheimer, of Bluffton, Indiana, and remained under their careful tutorship until 1867, and attended medical lectures at the University of Michigan the same year. He received his degree of M. D. from the Western Reserve Medical College, of Ohio, in 1868, and commenced the practice of his profession in the southern part of this county the same year. In 1871 he attended Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, and received a diploma. The last fourteen years he has resided at Poneto, Indiana, and has been engaged in the practice of his profession and farming. He has a fine farm of 500 acres, containing an artificial lake, covering about one acre of land, well stocked with German carp. Dr. Doster was married September 27, 1866, to Sarepta Tewksbury, born October 2, 1846, daughter of Simon and Polly (Porter) Tewksbury. Two children have been born to this union—Stella, born October 19, 1867, and Victoria, born No-

vember 19, 1883. Stella graduated at the high school at Bluffton in 1886, the first in her class of thirty-four. In 1873 he visited California and nearly all the Western Territories. He was commissioned postmaster for Poneto in 1875. Financially he has been successful. In politics an independent; in religion a liberal.



THOMAS STURGIS, deceased, was born near Lough Neagh, County Armagh, Ireland, December 25, 1802, a son of Rev. William Sturgis. When ten years old he was brought by his parents to America, landing at New York June 25, 1812. The family settled at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, where the father died shortly after, leaving the care of his mother, six sisters and a younger brother to our subject, which responsibility developed a manly and industrious character far beyond his years. When about eighteen years of age he began learning the hatter's trade, serving an apprenticeship, which trade he followed in Pennsylvania until he removed to Ohio. He was married in Pennsylvania August 5, 1826, to Elizabeth Brasier, his wife being a native of Chambersburgh, Pennsylvania, born February 7, 1807, a daughter of Rev. Jacob Brasier, a United Brethren minister. She became a Christian in early life, and when sixteen years old was admitted into the full membership of her father's church. Of the eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Sturgis, one died in infancy. Those yet living are—Charlotte, wife of W. T. White, of Bluffton; William, of Moniteau County, Missouri; Joseph, of Dalton, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of John D. Whitaker, of Miller County, Missouri; Elmore Y., of Bluffton; Lemuel D., of Wells County; Catharine, wife of Jona-

than Markley, of Wells County; Thomas, of Bluffton; John E., of Bluffton, and Mary, wife of Andrew J. Shoemaker, of Geneva, Indiana. In 1834 Mr. Sturgis removed with his family to Dalton, Ohio, where he followed the hatter's trade until 1852. In that year he came to Wells County, Indiana, and bought a partially improved farm in Lancaster Township, where he followed farming until his death, March 24, 1882. He was bereaved by the death of his faithful wife, with whom he had lived happily for over fifty-five years, her death taking place February 5, 1882. They left ten children, fifty-one grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and many warm friends, to mourn their loss. Both had lived long and useful Christian lives, and were among the highly respected citizens of the county. Mr. Sturgis was a man of strong convictions, and took great interest in the political issues of the day. He was a firm believer in the principles of the Democratic party, and cast his first Presidential vote for General Jackson in 1824. In 1840, during the exciting canvass between Van Buren and Harrison, rather than lose his vote, as was threatened, he, with his brother Joseph, walked twenty-five miles to New Philadelphia the evening before the election, securing their papers and returning home the next morning, all ready for business at the polls. All of his children are well educated, and have become useful and respected members of society.



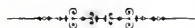
JOHAN K. REIFF, deceased, an old settler of Nottingham Township, Wells County, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, December 14, 1799. His parents were also natives of Berks County, and of German ancestry. He was reared on the farm and mar-



J. A. J. J.



ried Susannah Abling, born in Pennsylvania in 1807. He came to Wells County in 1844, entering land in Nottingham Township when the country was new and the neighbors were few and far between, the nearest one being two miles away. Deer and turkey were plenty, and their principal food was corn bread and venison. He was a Democrat in politics and held several local offices. He lived in Nottingham Township until his death, which occurred in June, 1861. The mother died in 1853. The parents had twelve children, one dying in infancy. They were members of the Evangelical Association. The first religious services of that denomination in the township were held at their house. When Mr. Reiff came here there was nothing but an Indian trail from Fort Wayne to Bluffton. He was then in limited circumstances, but by hard work and good management he accumulated a good property, giving each of his sons a home.



JACOB JEFFERSON TODD, attorney at law, Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, was born on his father's farm in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1843, and is the seventh child of Jacob and Jane (Thomas) Todd, who moved to Wells County in October, 1851. His father was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1805, and was the youngest son of Samuel and Lucy (Shivers) Todd, whose family consisted of seven sons and seven daughters. His grandfather, Samuel Todd, was the son of Alexander Todd, of Baltimore County, Maryland. His mother, Jane (Thomas) Todd, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, January 2, 1807, and was the eldest of twelve children, three sons and nine daughters, of Enos and Margaret (Cameron) Thomas. His maternal

grandfather, Enos Thomas, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, the son of Seth and Martha (Kirk) Thomas, and his grandmother, Margaret (Cameron) Thomas, was the daughter of Lewis and Frances (Sutter) Cameron. The Todd family is of Scotch-Irish descent, the Shivers of Scotch ancestry. Seth Thomas was born in Wales. The Kirk family was of Quaker origin, and came from England in 1651 with William Penn. Frances Sutter was a native of Lincolnshire, England. Lewis Cameron was born in the Highlands of Scotland. The parents of our subject were married January 14, 1830, and to them were born eleven children. Of their children—Samuel Thomas, who died January 11, 1859, was born October 24, 1830, married Rebecca I. Crawford, May 11, 1853, by whom he had three children, Lizzie J. now the wife of John C. Anderson, living near East Liverpool, Ohio, and two sons who died in infancy. John Wesley, the second son, was born April 19, 1832, and married Abigail Glass, September 13, 1855, who died August 24, 1859, leaving a daughter, Mary Jane, who is now living at Jasonville, Indiana; his only son by this marriage died in infancy; he was again married March 11, 1862, to Angeline Biddle, and to this union have been born three sons and five daughters. He was Second Lieutenant of Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry in the late war. He now resides at Jasonville, Indiana. Lucy was born February 11, 1834, married Asa McDaniel, September 21, 1854, who died July 15, 1855, leaving one son, John T. She was married a second time December 6, 1859, to Nathan Tobey, and they are the parents of three sons and two daughters living and one son who is deceased. Mr. Tobey was a member of Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Infantry. Margaret Ann, the fourth child, was born June

28, 1836, married Calvin Biddle, of Wauseon, Ohio, August 9, 1860, by whom she has two sons and two daughters. Uriah was born August 5, 1838, married Lois Smitley, November 26, 1867, and died April 14, 1880, leaving two sons and two daughters. Three of his children died in infancy. He was a member of Captain Barber's Company, Fourteenth Ohio Infantry, enlisting in April, 1861, in the three-months' service, and was also Second Lieutenant of Company K, Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and was afterward First Lieutenant of Company H, First United States Veteran Volunteer Engineers. He was the first citizen of Wells County to enlist in the war for the Union. Mary Jane was born September 26, 1840, married Samuel B. Bowman, December 9, 1858, and to this union were born nine children, three of whom died in infancy. She died April 24, 1878. Jacob Jefferson is the subject of this sketch. Nancy was born October 9, 1845, married John V. Allen, September 24, 1867, who was a member of Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. A son and a daughter were born to this union, of whom the son is deceased. Elizabeth Ellen, was born December 22, 1847, married Ransom Allen, February 15, 1866, and they have two daughters and one son living, and one son deceased. Mr. Allen was a member of Company A, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry. Simpson was born August 5, 1851, married Harriet E. Hoover, January 23, 1873, and has one son and one daughter. He resides upon and has charge of the old homestead. Bathsheba Isodene was born September 18, 1855, married John Adam Glass, October 24, 1872, and of the three children born to this union a son and a daughter are living. After their marriage the parents of our subject settled in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, remaining there until

1851, when, having sold their old homestead, they started for the then far West. They traveled in the primitive style with covered wagon and buggy, reaching their Indiana home on the northwest quarter of section 19, township 28 north, range 12 east, on the 12th day of October, 1851, where mother Todd still resides. Both joined the Methodist Episcopal church soon after their marriage, their parents being members of the same church. After coming to Indiana they endured the hardships incident to pioneer life, but by energy, industry and economy, they improved their farm, and made a comfortable home, and reared and educated their children in the principles of morality and Christianity. The father died November 3, 1864, leaving a good name and a life of Christian activity as an example for his children. He was a man of great honesty of purpose, and honorable in all things. In physical appearance he was six feet, one and a half inches in height, and weighed from 195 to 215 pounds when in his usual health. Mother Todd is a woman of slight physique, possessing unusual activity of mind and body, and has a remarkable memory. She is generous and kind, and Christian charity is a marked characteristic of her life. She is an excellent and agreeable conversationalist. Jacob J. Todd, whose name heads this sketch, was brought up on his father's farm in Jefferson Township, and assisted in his youth in clearing eighty acres of land. He received his education in the common schools of Wells County, and afterward attended Roanoke Seminary and Fort Wayne College for a short time. During the winters from 1861 until 1866 he taught in the public schools, three winters in the Glass district and two at Ossian. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, but was rejected on account of

ill health. In April, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and served during the summer of 1864 at Tullahoma and Duck River Bridge, Tennessee, under the command of General Robert Milroy, who had charge of the railroad defenses in that department. He returned home in October and cast his first vote for the great war Governor, O. P. Morton, and voted for the re-election of Abraham Lincoln as President in November following. In March, 1865, he was appointed assessor of Jefferson Township, and performed the duties of that office for that year. He commenced reading law at Bluffton, April 4, 1865, was admitted to the bar May 22, 1866, and entered upon the practice of his profession in January, 1868, in Bluffton, where he has since continued to practice. In 1867 he served as deputy collector of Internal Revenue for Wells Comty, in the Eleventh Congressional District, and in March, 1868, he was elected clerk of the corporation of Bluffton and served as such one year. He became a member of Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M., in April, 1864, and was worshipful master of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, during the years, 1872-'77-'78 and '79. He was worthy patron of Crescent Chapter, No. 48, Order of Eastern Star, in 1881; grand lecturer of Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, in 1881-'82; grand associate patron, 1883-'84, and grand patron in 1884-'85, and in 1884 was high priest of Bluffton Chapter, No. 95, R. A. M. He is a member of Fort Wayne Commandery, No. 4, K. T., and a Thirty-second degree member of Indiana Consistory A: A: Scottish Rite. He was senior grand deacon of the Grand Lodge from 1882 until 1884, grand marshal from 1884 until 1886, and is the present junior grand warden of the Grand Lodge of Masons for Indiana. He is also a charter member of Lew Dailey Post, No. 33,

G. A. R., and has been several times a delegate to the State encampment. September 2, 1859, he became a member of Prospect Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and for some sixteen years has been a member of the Quarterly Conference of his church at Bluffton, either as steward, trustee or Sunday-school superintendent. He was a member of the Lay Electoral Conference at Richmond in March, 1876, president of the Lay Electoral Conference at Union City in April, 1880, and lay delegate to the General Conference at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in May, 1884, and participated in the election of Bishops Ninde, Walden, Mallalieu, Fowler and Taylor. He was appointed alternate delegate to the National Republican Convention at Philadelphia, June, 1872, and in June, 1880, was a delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago that nominated Garfield and Arthur, and was a member of the committee on permanent organization; and during the great excitement following the thirty-sixth and final ballot for President Mr. Todd carried the Indiana banner over to General Garfield, and shook hands with and congratulated him upon his nomination, and then turning to Governor Foster extended greetings from the Indiana delegates, upon which Governor Foster grasped Mr. Todd's hand and enthusiastically exclaimed, "God bless Indiana, she deserves a golden crown," the Indiana delegates having turned the tide to the victorious leader, General Garfield, on the thirty-fifth ballot. He was a member of the committee on resolutions at the Republican State Convention in 1882, and urged the adoption of the submission resolution of the prohibition amendment in the committee and convention and upon the stump in that campaign. In September, 1886, he was a delegate to the National Convention of Anti-saloon Republicans at Chicago, Illinois. During

1886 he was prominently and favorably mentioned as a probable candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor, but he did not permit his name to go before the convention. He was delegate to the International Sunday-school Convention at Chicago, June, 1887. Mr. Todd has always enjoyed an extensive legal practice, and by his energy and attention to the interests of his clients he has won success. He took an active and energetic part in securing the necessary encouragement and aid which resulted in the building of the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville and the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City railroads through Bluffton. He has always been at the front to advocate all measures which might add to the prosperity, morality and intellectual advancement of the people. He is and has been an enthusiastic advocate of the cause of temperance and sobriety in the community and State, and believes that liquor saloons are the greatest foe to financial prosperity, to moral advancement, to the elevation of society and to the success of our Christian civilization, which is the hope and safeguard of our Government. In all things that adds to the comfort, happiness, and well being of the people he has ever lent his time, means, influence and hearty support. Mr. Todd was first married April 17, 1866, to Miss Rachel J., daughter of Nelson Kellogg, a well known and influential citizen of Bluffton. By this marriage he has one son, Nelson Kellogg Todd, born February 10, 1867. He is a graduate of the Bluffton High School of the class of 1883. By trade he is a printer. Has also read law to some extent in his father's office. He has been connected with the press as a news writer and local editor, and manifests considerable talent in this direction. August 22, 1876, Mr. Todd was married to Mrs. Mary Jane Klinek, whose former husband, Dwight

Klinek, was drowned on the ill-fated steamer, Schiller, on her voyage to Europe, May 7, 1875. Mrs. Todd is the eldest daughter of John and Rebecca (Angel) Studabaker. Her father is well known for his mental and physical activity and energy, and his success in all his undertakings has been most remarkable. Her mother is favorably known for her generosity and acts of kindness, and she has been a faithful worker for the cause of temperance, humanity and Christianity. Mrs. Todd obtained her education in the public schools of Bluffton and at Fort Wayne College. She has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since her girlhood, and her parents have been members of the same church for many years. She has all her life been active in Sunday-school and church work as scholar, teacher, assistant superintendent, class-leader and president of the ladies' social of the church. She is untiring in her labors in behalf of that which elevates mankind and furthers the cause of Christianity in the community. She is a lady of culture and refinement. By her first marriage she had four daughters—Maggie, Bessie, Luey and Mattie. Bessie was married September 9, 1884, to James W. Sale, and died September 7, 1886, leaving an infant daughter ten hours old. Maggie married David A. Walmer, May 12, 1885, and died October 17, 1886, leaving an infant daughter fifteen days old. The great sorrow caused by the death of these two lovely daughters has cast a gloom over the family which will never disappear while life lasts. Both were earnest Christian ladies, faithful Sunday-school workers, and loved by all who knew them. Each babe takes the full name of its departed mother. Bessie's babe finds a home with its father, James W. Sale, and his mother, while Maggie's babe is being cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Todd. Luey is a graduate of

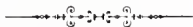
the Bluffton High School of the class of 1885. Mattie was a student of the class of 1887, but left school to assist in caring for Maggie's babe. The second marriage of Mr. Todd has been blessed by two bright, intelligent children—Mary, born August 9, 1878, and Ralph Studabaker, born August 5, 1880. Mr. Todd is a man of well disciplined mind, refined sentiment and definite principles. Fervent, sympathetic, earnest and withal jovial, he makes every one his friend. With all his sterling traits there is in his manner not the slightest degree of pedantry nor conceit. He represents the true American idea of republican suavity, marked originality and an exceedingly active and enterprising disposition, and accordingly has been a leader in all the local measures proposed for the public good.

NAAMAN T. MILLER, auditor of Wells County, Indiana, is a native of Ohio, born in Fairfield County, May 11, 1848. In 1856 he was brought by his parents, Samuel B. and Mary K. (Tevis) Miller, to Wells County, they settling in Chester Township, and there he was reared till reaching the age of sixteen years. He then entered the high school at Bluffton, from which he graduated in the class 1867, after which he attended Eastman's National Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York, and graduated from that institution in the spring of 1868. He was soon after appointed deputy auditor of Wells County by Auditor M. C. Blue, and served under him and his successor for six years. May 8, 1873, he was married at Bluffton, to Miss Jennie Smith, who was born in Rock Creek Township in 1852, a daughter of Thomas T. and Catherine (Garry) Smith, both of whom are deceased.

Her mother was a direct descendant of Governor Gary of Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of four children—Mande, May M., Hugh S. and Ralph. In 1873 Mr. Miller was elected clerk of Bluffton, and served in that capacity for seven years. In October, 1882, he was elected to his present office, auditor of Wells County for a term of four years, and has since filled that office with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. Mr. Miller is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, A. F. & A. M., of Bluffton, and Mrs. Miller belongs to the Order of the Eastern Star, A. F. & A. M., at Bluffton. Both are members of the Bluffton Baptist church.

WILLIAM POULSON, retired farmer, Chester Township, was born in Harrison County, Ohio, August 11, 1818, son of James and Elizabeth (Arnold) Poulson, natives of Maryland, the former of Irish and the latter of Welsh descent. They were married in Maryland, and early removed to Harrison County, Ohio, where they were pioneers. They passed the remainder of their lives in that county, the father dying about 1876, and the mother in 1836. William was reared to farm life in Harrison County, and was married there, November 24, 1842, to Miss Deborah Ross, born in Bedford County, Maryland, and daughter of James and Martha (Phillips) Ross, who removed to Harrison County, where they lived until their death. In 1847 William Poulson and his wife started for Indiana by team, and after a tedious trip of seventeen days, through the muddy roads of November, they arrived in Blackford County, December 7. There Mr. Poulson bought eighty acres of land at \$2 an acre, which contained a cabin and a small cleared space. After a residence there of

seven years, they came to Wells County and bought 160 acres of land for \$4,000. He afterward sold forty acres of the land. There was a small house and barn on the place, but Mr. Poulson has made all of the improvements that are now on the place. He has about ninety acres cleared. Mr. and Mrs. Poulson have had ten children, of whom two, James R. and Barbara Ann, are deceased. James R. was a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Infantry, going out when only twenty years of age. He was in Sherman's army; was taken sick on the field, and was taken to the hospital at Cleveland, Tennessee, where he died May 20, 1865. He was buried at Cleveland. The living children are—William Jasper, who married Rebecca Dodds; Thomas Wilson, who married Ellen Dodds; Martha Jane, wife of Allen Wilson; John W., a carpenter, of Des Moines, Iowa, who married Rose Hunter; Isaac Newton married Lucinda Lake, and lives in Delaware County, Indiana; A. C., who married Amy Sutton; Henry, who married May Smith and lives in Montpelier, and Lewis Harvey. The parents are members of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, and Mr. Poulson is one of the trustees of the congregation. He has been a Republican since the organization of that party, and has served as supervisor of the district.

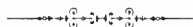


HIRAM HATFIELD, a merchant at Oshtian, was a grandson of Adam Hatfield, who emigrated from England to America when about twenty years of age, and first located in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where he married Margaret Dillworth about 1772. His father was John Hatfield, also a native of England, who married Dorothy O'Neal. After her death he married

Elizabeth Shippore, who died without children. To the first marriage were born Adam, Andrew, John and Sarah, all of whom came to America. John Hatfield, Sr., went to India and engaged in trading between those countries, and later he was a banker in India. It is supposed that a large estate was left to his relatives at his death. The children of Adam Hatfield, Sr., were Elizabeth, John, Mary, Benjamin, Sarah, Margaret, Robert, Nancy, Joseph and Adam. In 1795 Adam Hatfield, Sr., with his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and his death occurred the next year. His wife and family then returned to Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and in 1815, with her sons, Robert, Joseph and Adam, removed to Wayne County, Ohio, settling near Wooster. In 1838 Adam Hatfield, Jr., with his wife, Martha Kirkpatrick, and their family, settled in Jefferson Township, three miles north of Murray, upon a tract of three quarter-sections of land which he had previously entered. A rude log cabin was erected, and during the winter a plat of ten acres was cleared for planting in the spring. Adam Hatfield was one of the early officials of the township, and served in several official positions. He was a man possessing great force of character, and although his education was limited, he wielded a power in this community which was recognized by all. As a politician he was an ardent Whig, with strong anti-slavery proclivities. Both himself and wife were members of the Presbyterian church before they came to the county, and they may properly be termed the parents of that faith in Wells County. The first Presbyterian religious services held in Wells County were held in the humble home of Adam and Mrs. Hatfield, Rev. Isaac A. Ogden, of the Miami, Ohio, Presbytery, officiating. The church was organized by a committee of that Presbytery, and Rev. John

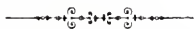
H. Russ was the first pastor. The death of Mrs. Martha Hatfield occurred in 1840. The remains were interred in the old Henry Miller cemetery, the first burying-ground in the northern part of the county. Later the remains were disinterred and deposited in the Murray cemetery. Adam Hatfield afterward married Mrs. Elizabeth Steward, a widow, with whom he passed the remainder of his days. He died in 1848, aged fifty-five years. Hiram Hatfield, our subject, received his preliminary education at a private school taught by Miss Margaret Hatfield, in a log cabin that stood on the Hatfield farm. Her entire salary was 75 cents weekly for tuition, and she boarded around among the pupils. Miss Hatfield is yet living in Union Township with her brother John. Notwithstanding the difficulties of securing an education in an early day, Mr. Hatfield persevered until he was a good practical scholar. The woods were full of Indians, and deer furnished a large portion of the meat supply for the newcomer. Trapping and hunting was a necessity, as from the sale of furs and pelts the pioneers obtained cash to pay taxes and purchase the few necessary articles for making further improvements on their lands. In 1850 Mr. Hatfield was married to Miss Martha A. Egbert, who died in 1852. The following year he was married to Catherine K. Donaldson, daughter of Robert and Ann Donaldson, who resided near Murray. In April, 1852, Mr. Hatfield sold his farm and engaged in the mercantile business at Murray, continuing sixteen years in the same business at that village. In 1867 he purchased a stock of merchandise in Ossian, and has been continuously engaged in that business to the present date. His trade increased in such proportions that a suitable building became a necessity, and in 1880 the large two-story brick, 38 x 100 feet, was erected

and divided into six departments, in which everything in the mercantile line is handled, except drugs. Six clerks are employed regularly, and during the busy season other help is necessary. Mr. Hatfield has given liberal aid to the building up of the manufacturing interests of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield have five children—Anna M., Victor M., James C., E. Jennie and Robert A. The eldest son is a partner in the mercantile trade, the firm being known as Hatfield & Son. Victor M. is recognized as one of the brightest business men of the county. In 1861 Mr. Hatfield enlisted in Company G of the old "Twelfth," and was honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of service. His patriotism was unquestioned, as he locked up his store, which entailed a great loss in a financial way. He was elected ruling elder in the Presbyterian church at Murray, and he still holds that position. All the members of his family are members of that church, and the name throughout this and adjacent counties stands without a peer for integrity and stability of character. The G. A. R. Post meets in the second story of his building, to which order Mr. Hatfield belongs.



DR. JAMES R. McCLEERY was born near Lancaster, Ohio, on October 22, 1822. He studied medicine under the celebrated Dr. Bruster, at Lancaster, and completed his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania in the winter of 1848-'49. He was married to Miss M. Gutelius, October 23, 1849, at Carroll, Fairfield County, Ohio, where he practiced his profession up to the time of his emigration to Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, August 30, 1851. Shortly after his arrival he entered into co-partnership with Dr. Henry Courtney under the firm

of Courtney & McCleery, which continued harmoniously for several years, when the senior partner emigrated to Iowa. In the spring of 1853 he united with the fraternity of Masons at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and continued a worthy member of that order up to the time of his death, which took place on his farm, a few miles southeast of Bluffton, on April 21, 1874, in his fifty-second year. In the spring of 1861 he entered into co-partnership with Dr. Melsheimer in the drug business, under the firm of McCleery & Melsheimer. A fine three-story brick building was erected, which is now occupied as a hardware store by Mr. Brickley. The firm continued their business for several years, when it was amicably dissolved by a withdrawal of the doctor to assume the duties of clerk of Wells County, to which office he had been elected in the fall of 1867, and also re-elected in 1871. Dr. McCleery was a man of fine social qualities, by which he became endeared to all his acquaintances. He was a prudent and cautious practitioner of marked ability. He had a very extensive knowledge of the theory of medicine, and possessed that very rare faculty of reducing it to successful practice.



HON. HUGH DOUGHERTY, banker, of Bluffton, was born on his father's farm in Darke County, Ohio, July 28, 1844, a son of William and Margaret (Studabaker) Dougherty, both now deceased. The Doughertys are of Irish descent, the Studabakers of German. He remained on his father's farm until he was sixteen years of age, having in the meantime attended the common schools of his native county. When seventeen years old he had by his own energy, perseverance and skill obtained sufficient knowledge to

enable him to teach in the public schools. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, Ninety-fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, and ten days after his enlistment was ordered to the front. The next day after reaching Lexington, Kentucky, he marched to Richmond, Kentucky, and took part in the engagement before that city, where his intimate friend and messmate, Perry Weikle, was killed, and William H. Birely, of the same company, was seriously wounded. In this engagement his regiment was heavily depleted by having a large number of its members taken prisoners while falling back to Lexington, and from there fought their way to Louisville, where they remained until reinforced. They were then assigned to General Buell's army and took part in the battle at Perryville, being in the hottest part of the fight, and his regiment was again reduced in number by killed, wounded and taken prisoners. From there what remained went to Nashville, remaining there some time, and then advanced and took part in the battle of Stone River, where he was captured while guarding ammunition and stores, near Nolensville, and was paroled, the following being a copy of the oath he was obliged to take:

"NOLENSVILLE, TENNESSEE,

December 30, 1862.

"I, Hugh Dougherty, private of Company F, Ninety-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, U. S. A., do take a solemn oath not to take up arms against the Confederate States Troops, nor reveal anything I may have learned derogatory to the interests of the Confederate States of America, nor do any police or constabulary duties until I shall have been properly exchanged, under penalty of death. HUGH DOUGHERTY.

"Witness, Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Hawkins, of General Wheeler's staff."

He was then sent back to Nashville, and



Hugh Doughty

from there was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, to remain until exchanged. Learning while there of the serious illness of his elder brother Abraham, who was a member of the same company and regiment, and who had been sent back very sick, he made a visit home, and after his brother's death reported for duty, but was soon after taken quite sick and discharged from the service. He then went to Greenville, Ohio, and was soon after appointed deputy recorder, and filled that position for more than two years. In 1865 he located in Bluffton, and for six months was engaged in the mercantile business as a clerk, when he became associated in business with his uncle, John Studabaker, and for seven years was in the produce business. In the meantime he became assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Bluffton, which subsequently merged into the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Co., composed of Hon. John Studabaker, Major Peter Studabaker and the subject of this sketch. His partners are pioneer citizens and excellent business men, and second cousins of the well-known Studedaker Bros., of South Bend, Indiana. The firm of John Studabaker & Co. have a large and extensive business, and in banking Mr. Dougherty proves to be successful and popular. He is not only an enterprising business man, but is always one of the first to advance the interests of anything that is calculated to promote the public welfare. In 1871, as trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he became a member in 1866, he was selected as financial and business manager during the erection of their new church edifice. In 1868, while serving as one of the school trustees, it was mainly through his enterprise and influence that the then large and commodious school building was erected. He was largely instrumental in pushing to successful and final completion

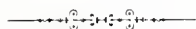
the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad, and was superintendent of the construction of the section between Fort Wayne and Bluffton. He was also interested in the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad, and in company with James Crosbie built the section between Bluffton and Warren. He was one of the projectors of the gravel roads and turnpikes that have proved so beneficial to Wells County. Politically he is a Democrat and his advice in party affairs is sought in county, district and State campaigns. In 1870 he was elected State Senator, and represented Wells and Huntington counties creditably for four years. While a Senator he voted, in 1873, for the now famous Baxter bill, in favor of the local control of the liquor traffic. This vote by Mr. Dougherty was a matter of conscience, and although at the time the members of his party in the Senate were generally opposed to the bill, and voted against it, yet he still adheres to the doctrine laid down in that law. In 1878 he was a candidate for the nomination for Congress, and was defeated on the 114th ballot by only five votes. It is the opinion of his friends that he would have been nominated for Congress by the Democratic Convention at Bluffton in 1886, had he not promptly declined when his name was presented. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago in 1884 that nominated Cleveland and Hendricks. In April, 1887, he was appointed by Governor Gray and the other State officers one of the Soldiers' Monument Commissioners, under an act of the Legislature passed in the session of 1887, the other members of the Commission being General Lew Wallace, Hon. Samuel B. Voyles, Hon. George J. Langsdale and Hon. Daniel M. Ramsdell. On account of pressing business engagements, and being somewhat broken in health, he reluctantly declined the

distinguished honor and tendered his declination of the trust. He was married October 25, 1877, to Miss Emma Gilliland, the only daughter of Theodore F. and Elizabeth (Sheldon) Gilliland, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mrs. Dougherty was born June 22, 1857, at Sterling, Illinois. Her parents are natives of New York, and of Scotch-Irish descent. She has been since girlhood a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She is a lady of refinement and takes great interest in all that tends to better the condition of society. They have one child, Elizabeth, born March 23, 1885, who is the pride and joy of their home. Mr. Dougherty is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 1838, Knights of Honor, and is also a member of *Lew Daily Post*, No. 33, G. A. R. He is a public-spirited and influential citizen, generous and kind-hearted. To all worthy objects he contributes liberally of his means. His career has been useful, popular and honorable.

REV. JONATHAN J. MARKLEY is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Harrison Township, March 7, 1839. His parents, John and Melinda (Wilson) Markley, were natives of Maryland and Ohio respectively, the father born near Baltimore March 10, 1809, and reared in Pennsylvania, and the mother born January 12, 1816. They were married in Madison County, Ohio, and to them were born eleven children, eight of whom grew to maturity, their names in order of their birth being as follows: Mrs. Rachel Adsit, living in Iroquois County, Illinois; Jonathan J., the subject of this sketch; William D., residing in Wells County; Mrs. Ellen J. Studabaker, of Wells County; Mrs. Tillie J. Sturgis, of Bluffton; Lewis P., of Greene County, Ohio; Samuel T., of Clinton

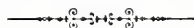
County, Indiana, and Wilson A., living on the old homestead in Harrison Township. The parents were pioneer settlers of Wells County, settling in the wilderness of Harrison Township in February, 1837, about two years after their marriage. The father died on his pioneer homestead in 1869. He came to the county a poor man, but by industry and frugality he accumulated a large property, leaving at his death about 700 acres of land besides considerable personal property. He was a man of sterling character, and one whose word was considered as good as his bond, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. In politics he was formerly a Whig, and later a Republican. For about twenty years previous to his death he was a consistent member of the Christian church. The widowed mother still resides on the old homestead in Harrison Township with her son Wilson. Rev. Jonathan J. Markley, the subject of this sketch, has spent most of his life in Wells county, receiving his early education in the common schools of the county. He was a student at Liber College in Jay County, and later attended the Union Christian College in Sullivan County, Indiana, finishing his studies when twenty-eight years of age. In 1865 he united with the Christian church, and from that time has devoted himself to the cause of the Master. He commenced his ministerial work in 1869, and was ordained in 1872. Since 1869 he has had charge of the Christian church at Murray. Mr. Markley was united in marriage, January 18, 1871, to Miss Mary Hoffman, who was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, August 18, 1840, a daughter of Philip Hoffman, of Wells County. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Markley made his home on section 19, Lancaster Township, near his present residence, and is still living in that section. He owns a fine farm property con-

taining 210 acres, which is under a good state of cultivation. In politics Mr. Markley is a Republican. He is an active temperance worker, and in sympathy with prohibition.



HENRY W. LIPKEY, merchant at Uniondale, was born in Union Township January 2, 1859, son of Henry and Rachel (Crum) Lipkey. The father was born in Brooke County, Virginia, and removed to Mahoning County, Ohio, where he was married and where four of his children were born—Charles, Mary, William and Amos (deceased). James, Elizabeth, Austin, Rachel, Wesley, Margaret, Daniel and Henry were born in Union Township, this county. They settled upon the farm now occupied by the mother, about 1857. James married Martha Longshore, and they have two children—Jesse and Hattie; Elizabeth became the wife of George W. Black, and they have two children—Hubert and Minnie; William married Mollie Friedlein, and their children are Clifford and Nova. Charles manages the farm, and the mother and Mary make their home with him. Austin, Rachel, Wesley, Margaret and Daniel are deceased. Henry was educated in Union Township, and when fourteen years of age began business for himself. He was the pioneer merchant of Uniondale, and the first business house was built by him. This was then a country cross-road, and no thought had existed that an enterprising village would in a few years mark the site now inside the boundary of Uniondale. His stock of goods was of a general character, and the growth of the town made him a fine trade. From the small investment of a few dollars the trade has increased until a large stock of merchandise now graces the shelves. In November, 1883, a partnership was formed with

Mr. William Newhard, which has continued to the present time. January 25, 1886, he was appointed postmaster, and was the first postmaster of Uniondale. He was the first appointed ticket agent of the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad Company at this village, and from the very first has been identified with the business interests of Uniondale.



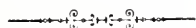
ROBERT P. LAMBERT, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Queens County, Ireland, April 7, 1847, son of William and Susan Lambert. When he was three years of age his parents came to America, locating in Butler County, Ohio, where they remained about two years, then removed to Wayne County, this State, where the father followed farming until 1859. They then came to this county and settled in Chester Township, where the father had purchased land prior to coming to this county. They did not make a permanent location on this land, as it was a wild forest, but rented some land in Nottingham Township. The mother died while on the voyage across the ocean, and while living in Butler County the father married Matilda Moore, who died in Nottingham Township, in August, 1860, the father following her five days later. The only children were Robert P. and Susan Jane, the latter dying a short time previous to the death of the father. Robert P. was thus left at the age of thirteen years, without brother or sister, and he was thrown upon his own resources. May 12, 1872, he was married to Miss Caroline Harding, a native also of Queens County, Ireland, and daughter of Arthur and Lavinia (Dickson) Harding. Mr. Lambert enlisted in the service of the Union. He served mostly under General Thomas, and remained with his command until the

time of his discharge. He is a member of Lew Daily Post, at Bluffton. Mrs. Lambert's father died in Ireland, and her mother afterward removed to Manchester, England, and was living when last heard from. Mrs. Lambert came to America alone when twenty-three years of age, and heard of her father's death at Castle Garden, New York. She then came to this county.

EDMUND B. SHAW, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in the State of New York, September 18, 1824, son of Patrick and Cynthia (Beers) Shaw, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Connecticut. When he was a mere child his parents removed to Warren County, Ohio, thence, after a short time, to Wayne County, Indiana, where the father died. The mother then removed to Butler County, and when Edmund B. was fourteen years of age the family again removed to Darke County, where the mother died about 1840. At the age of sixteen years Edmund went to Preble County to learn the tanner's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He then gave up the trade and went to teaming, which he followed in connection with farm work until he was twenty-eight years old. In 1853 he came to Wells County, settling in Nottingham Township; and during his residence of thirty-five years in the county, his residence has been within a mile and half of where he now resides. He was married in 1845 to Miss Jane Harter, born and reared in Darke County, Ohio. She died April 22, 1864. They had ten children. Those living are—Eliza E., wife of Ansel B. Tinsley, lives in Delaware County; Alonzo B. resides in Muncie; William C. also lives in Muncie; Richard resides in Blackford County; Mary

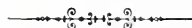
Elizabeth, wife of Alfred Stookey, lives in Muncie. The deceased are—Reed, George, Catherine, Jane and Esther Lovisa. Mr. Shaw married his present wife, formerly Margaret Glessner, in January, 1866. She was born in Waynesburg, Stark County, Ohio, and a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Koontz) Glessner, who died in that county, the mother in 1856. Mrs. Shaw was first married to Simon Watkins, who died in 1862. By his first marriage Mr. Shaw had three children—W. A., John S., who resides in Nottingham Township, and Mary Jane, wife of Milton Holloway. By his second marriage are five children—Rosella F., Cynthia Ann, Thomas J., Margaretta and Gertie. In the fall of 1862 Mr. Shaw enlisted in the army, and October 19 was mustered into the service as a member of Company A, Forty-seventh Veteran Volunteers, under Colonel James R. Slack. His command was assigned to the Thirteenth Army Corps under General Grant. When Mr. Shaw reached Indianapolis he was taken sick. His son Reed, who had gone to the front, took his place, and served one year for his father. Mr. Shaw then resumed his place in his command, and Reed re-enlisted and served through the entire war. His health became so much impaired by exposure that he never recovered his strength, and died soon after. Mr. Shaw served mostly in the department of West Mississippi, and remained with his command during all their battles and marches. He took part in the last struggle of the Rebellion, at Forts Spanish and Blakely, and the capture of Mobile. He was mustered out at Baton Rouge, and discharged at Indianapolis, November 2, 1865, and returned home. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are members of the Protestant Methodist church, and he is an advisory member. He is serving as constable of Nottingham

Township, having been chosen at the last election. He was one of the number who went to Shreveport, Louisiana, and there received the surrender of the last rebel troops, during the war, under General Kirby Smith. His son Alonzo was in Company G, Fifty-first Indiana Infantry, serving under Thomas, and assisted in the pursuit of Hood through Tennessee. He was discharged at Indianapolis and returned to his home in Wells County.



JOHN W. THORNBURG, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Randolph County, Indiana, April 3, 1843, son of Curtis and Mahala (Clevinger) Thornburg, natives of Virginia. His mother died in Blackford County, Indiana, March 5, 1885, and the next year his father removed to Delaware County, where he now resides. He was reared to farm life in his native county, and made that his home until March 5, 1875, when he removed to Wells County, on the line between Blackford County and Wells County, and lived there until 1883. He then purchased one mile west eighty acres of land, where he now resides, and exchanged his former home for eighty acres adjoining his new purchase. He was married in Randolph County, July 27, 1865, to Miss Sarah E. E. Odle, a native of that county, and a daughter of John and Rachel Odle. Her father died in Randolph County, and her mother still resides there. Mr. and Mrs. Thornburg have had five children, of whom Minnie Etta is deceased. Those living are—James R., William H., Joseph L. and Ota A. Both are members of the Christian church. August 22, 1862, Mr. Thornburg enlisted at Richmond, Indiana, in Company K, Eighty-fourth Indiana

Infantry, joining his regiment at Guyandotte, West Virginia. From there they went to Cassville, Virginia, thence to Nashville, where they were assigned to the Fourth Army Corps, under General Howard. His first engagement was at Chickamauga, September 19-20; and after several skirmishes, occurred the siege of Atlanta, and the battle of Franklin, November 30, and December 16-17, the battle of Nashville. After that his command was sent to Columbia, Alabama, thence to Nashville again, where the close of the war found them. Mr. Thornburg was discharged at Indianapolis, June 27, 1865. He was with his regiment all the time until the war closed, never being away on furlough or for sickness. He was the only man in the company that made such a record. He is a Republican in politics, and has held the office of supervisor several terms; was elected township assessor in 1886 for four years.



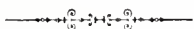
JONATHAN MARKLEY, farmer, section 20, Harrison Township, was born in this county June 4, 1838, and is the oldest white child now living that was born in the county. His parents were Gabriel and Hannah Markley. He was reared on a farm, and obtained a limited education in the early subscription schools that were taught in the primitive log cabin. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which occurred December 21, 1858, with Miss Catherine, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Brasier) Sturgis. After his marriage Mr. Markley resided on a farm near the old homestead for seven years. He then removed to Newville, where he followed farming until the spring of 1882, when he sold out and purchased his present farm in Harrison Township. He owns 160 acres of

well-improved land, in a good state of cultivation. He also owns forty acres on section 19. Mr. and Mrs. Markley are the parents of thirteen children, eleven of whom are living—Gabriel T., George F., John E., Lulu May, Hannah Bell, Oliver E., William Henry, Ernest E., Jonathan Leander, Wilford I. and Charlie D. The deceased are Elva, May and Katie. Both parents are active members of the Christian church, and politically Mr. Markley affiliates with the Prohibition party.

UGUSTUS N. MARTIN, attorney at law, was born at Whitestown, Butler County, Pennsylvania, on March 23, 1847, on his father's farm, his parents being John and Eveline W. Martin, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish descent. At the age of twelve years, with a common-school education, Mr. Martin began and took a course of several terms in the Witherspoon Institute, at Butler, Pennsylvania. On July 3, 1863, he enlisted in Company I, Fifty-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia, assisting in the capture of General John Morgan and his command, near Salineville, Ohio. On February 22, 1865, he enlisted in Company E, Seventy-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, serving until August 30, 1865, when he was discharged at Nashville, Tennessee. In February, 1867, he graduated in a business course at Eastman's College, Poughkeepsie, New York. He has taught three terms of school. On the day he arrived at the age of twenty-one years, he left his father's house for the West, settling in Wells County, Indiana, near Ossian, in June, 1869, where he was a day laborer on farm and railroad, until he began the study of law November 3, 1869,

in the law office of Todd & Shinn, of Bluffton, Indiana, pursuing his studies day and night with such assiduity that he was admitted to the bar in September, 1870, at Bluffton, entering the practice first as junior member of the law firm of Todd & Martin, and then of Burwell & Martin. He engaged in the practice alone in April, 1874. During that year he was elected a Democratic member of the Legislature from the counties of Adams and Wells, serving as chairman of the committee on corporations and second on the committees on judiciary and the organization of courts. On April 19, 1876, he was nominated for Reporter of the Supreme Court of Indiana, on the Democratic State ticket led by "Blue Jeans" Williams for Governor, which ticket was elected in October, 1876. In 1880 Mr. Martin was renominated by acclamation, and, although the whole Democratic State ticket was defeated, he was beaten by less majority than any other nominee on that ticket. During his four years' term he edited and published volumes LIV. to LXX., seventeen in all, of Indiana Reports. In May, 1881, he removed to Austin, Texas, where he engaged in the practice of the law with his brother, Homer L. Martin, continuing at Austin until July 19, 1883, when the brothers began practice together again at Bluffton, Indiana. On September 21, 1881, Mr. Martin was married, at her parents' home, to Ida L., eldest daughter of Owen T. and Lizzie Curd, of Charleston, Coles County, Illinois. Mabel Martin is his only child, who was born at Austin, Texas, on June 30, 1882. Mr. Martin, with his wife and daughter, resides at Bluffton, where he is engaged in practicing his profession, with success. He was leading counsel for the State in the celebrated prosecution of William Walker for the murder of George Shaw, the trial occu-

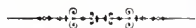
pying the whole of the April term, 1884, of the Wells Circuit Court, resulting in a judgment sentencing Walker to twenty-one years in the State prison. He was also engaged in the trial of the celebrated case of William A. Davis *vs.* Dr. John C. Fulton, for malpractice, which occupied the attention of a jury for two weeks, in March, 1887, resulting in a verdict for Dr. Fulton, Mr. Martin's client. He is a Democrat, is a member of the Presbyterian church, is over six feet in height, and has hair as black as night itself.



EORGE HARTER, farmer, was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, January 9, 1835, son of Michael and Mary (Slone) Harter, the former a native of Wurttemberg, Germany, and who immigrated to America in 1828. He was married in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, which was the home of Mary Slone. Six children were born to this union—Ann, George, Margaret, Sarah, Andrew and Thomas Slone. The family settled in Jefferson Township, Wells County, Indiana, in October, 1852, locating on the farm now owned by John B. Ady. The parents lived upon this farm several years, and in 1876 removed to Ossian, living a retired life. Both reached a ripe old age, the father being eighty-two and the mother eighty-four. Their deaths occurred within a few months of each other. They had reared a family who were a credit to their ancestry, had a comfortable home and an ample income for their declining years. Both were zealous members of the Presbyterian church and were retiring in disposition, though firm in principle. Their sons were imbued with patriotism inherited from their Revolutionary sires on the mother's side, and all enlisted during the progress of the late war. Our subject en-

listed August 31, 1861, as a private in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. March 1, 1862, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant, and one year later to First Lieutenant of his company. His regiment was engaged at the siege of New Madrid, battle of Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi, and many skirmishes. At the battle of Champion Hills Mr. Harter acted as aid to General McGinnis, and carried to General Grant the dispatch from General Hovey asking for reinforcements. This incident is alluded to by General Grant in his *Memoirs* (vol. 1, page 517). July 19, 1864, Lieutenant Harter was discharged from the service for disability. Andrew and Thomas shared the fate of thousands of brave men who fell on the battle-field. Andrew belonged to Company K, Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and was shot dead September 19, 1863, while in line of duty at Chickamanga. Thomas, although a sickly lad, after his brother's death insisted on taking his place. Although urged by his friends to stay at home, on account of feeble health, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Indiana Infantry, for 100 days. He was unable to withstand the Southern climate, and died a few days before his term of service expired, at Tullahoma, Tennessee. Our subject returned home, and in August, 1864, married Miss Martha, daughter of James and Rachel (Allen) Glass, of Jefferson Township. They commenced living on the farm, and Mr. Harter has followed that vocation ever since. He has also been an extensive breeder of stock. Previous to the war he was a teacher, and taught seven consecutive winters in this county. Dr. A. G. Gorrell and J. J. Todd, of Bluffton. Dr. C. V. Torrell, of New Haven, Hon. Joseph Ady, of Kansas, J. W. Wilson, of Fort Wayne, Dr. Frederick Glock, deceased, late of Adams

County, Revs. Sherman McCorkle and Charles O. Robb, and other noted men of this and other counties were his pupils. He is a member of William Swaim Post, No. 169, G. A. R., and was a delegate from the Eleventh District to the Grand Encampment held at San Francisco August 3, 1886. For sixteen years Mr. Harter has served as one of the ruling elders of the Ossian Presbyterian Church, and teacher for a number of years of the adult Bible class. Mr. and Mrs. Harter have had six children, only two surviving—Mollie and Webner. The daughter is completing her musical education, and is quite an accomplished scholar. Mr. Harter is a self-made man in every respect, having commenced at the age of nineteen for himself as a farm laborer at 50 cents per day, and now, as a result of honest industry and wise economy, is in possession of a competence for present wants and future necessities.



WILLIAM WAIKEL, merchant at Banner, - was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, in 1841, son of Benjamin and Susan (Bailey) Waikel, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in Susquehanna County. The Bailey family has a large record in this county. Benjamin and Susan were married in Ohio, and six children were born in that State—William, Mary A. (deceased), Levi, Henry, George and Frank. The family came to Indiana in 1851, settling upon the farm now occupied by the aged father in Union Township. Alice and Sarah were born in that Township. All the children are married and all have families. Levi married Cynthia Jarvis, George married Rachel Wagner, Henry married a lady from Illinois, Frank married Ann Woods, Alice is now Mrs. John Stoffer,

Sarah became the wife of Peter Wickliffe, and William, our subject, is the husband of Olive Prough. In 1861 Mr. Waikel enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana, and at the expiration of his three years' service re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, serving until the close of the war, and receiving an honorable discharge at Brownsville, Texas, January 8, 1866. His regiment was assigned to the Western Army, and participated in the noted battles of Island No. 10, New Madrid, Missonri, Duval's Bluff, Vicksburg, Champion Hill, Jackson, Mississippi, and Baker's Creek. His regiment did garrison duty for eighteen months at New Orleans. From there they were sent to Indianola, where they re-enlisted, and, after a furlough, were sent to Brazos Island. Mr. Waikel was detailed there in the quartermaster's department and continued there during the remainder of his term. His brother Levi was a member of the One Hundred and First Regiment, and served in all the engagements of that regiment. After his return from the army, Mr. Waikel was married, but not until he was thirty-one years of age. He did not like farm labor, and entered into various occupations until 1882. When the new town of Banner was surveyed he decided to engage in the mercantile trade. He erected the second business house and the second dwelling-house in the village. He sold his farm in 1883, and since that time has devoted his attention wholly to the mercantile trade. The postoffice was established in 1882, and Mr. Waikel received the appointment of postmaster; he is still holding that position. He is one of the charter members of the Lew. Daily Post, No. 33, G. A. R. His father owned the first threshing machine brought to Union Township, and William operated it for many years. During the year 1879 he handled over 42,000 bushels of grain. Mr. and Mrs. Waikel have



John Studabaker

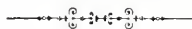
three children—Alfred G., Zorah M. and Edie. During the seventeen years that Mr. Waikel operated his threshing machine he threshed over 700,000 bushels of grain. He takes great pride in this record, as it is not likely to be surpassed.

JOHAN STUDABAKER, of the Exchange Bank of Bluffton, and a prominent and one of the oldest citizens of Wells County, was born in Darke County, Ohio, August 15, 1807, a son of Abraham and Mary (Townsend) Studabaker. He received such education as could be obtained in the schools of his neighborhood in that early day, which were held in rude log cabins. When a young man he engaged as clerk in the dry goods store of Henry Arnold, of Greenville, Ohio. In 1838 he left Greenville for Wells County, Indiana, bringing with him a stock of goods consisting of articles that were needed by the settlers of that new country, and opened up a store in a log cabin north of the Public Square in Bluffton, many of his customers being Indians. His stock of goods was brought from Cincinnati, Ohio, by wagons, requiring some fifteen or twenty days to make the round trip. He would exchange his goods for all kinds of produce and then he would load his teams that he sent for goods and sell at Cincinnati. In 1844 the county began settling up pretty fast, and he built him a two-story frame building and enlarged his business. During this time he was agent for the American Fur Company, and bought all kinds of furs and had control of the counties of Adams, Jay, Wells and Blackford. Furs bringing cash and being rather plentiful he derived quite a trade. In 1852 he built a brick building on the same spot where he located his cabin, and in 1856

he closed out the dry goods business and commenced banking in connection with his produce business, under the name of Exchange Bank. In 1863 the same merged into the First National bank, with John Studabaker as president, and in 1868 the First National was discontinued, when the subject of this sketch, together with his brother, Peter Studabaker, and his nephew, Hugh Dougherty, organized the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Co., which is still in operation and doing a successful and extensive business. Mr. Studabaker has always carried on the produce business and has built large elevators at Bluffton, Warren and Markle, Indiana, and at this time has associated with him James W. Sale, and his sons—David E. and John A. Studabaker—under the name of Studabaker, Sale & Co. He owns a number of farms, also a large amount of town property, all of which he operates and manages himself. In 1851 he laid out an addition to the town of Bluffton, and in 1869 made a second addition, and has made quite an improvement to the city. He has always been in favor of public improvement. In 1850 Wells County was in the mud, and he, with others, originated and built the Bluffton and Fort Wayne plank road, which opened quite an outlet for the produce. In 1851 he was interested largely in the Fort Wayne & Southern Railroad, which was graded through Wells County, but failed for awhile on account of stringency for money. In 1869 it was revived, and it was by his energy that it was completed. He subscribes to all the gravel road petitions and favors all public improvements that will prove the most good to the people, and at all times will try to aid and assist those that are deserving, believing in industry and economy in all things. July 7, 1839, he was married to Rebecca Angel, daughter of David Angel, one of the

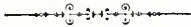
leading citizens of Darke County, Ohio, and made his wedding tour on horseback from Greenville, Ohio, to Bluffton, Indiana. Of the ten children born to this union only four are now living. Four died in childhood. Mary Jane, his eldest daughter, was married to Dwight Klinek, in 1863, and from this union four children were born. In 1875, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, Mr. Klinek was drowned, when the steamship Schiller sank in the English Channel. In August, 1876, she was again married, to Jacob J. Todd, a prominent attorney of Bluffton, of which union two children have been born. Jeanette, his second daughter, was married to F. T. Waring, by whom two children were born, a son and a daughter. In 1874 Jeanette died, leaving these two children to the care of her younger sister, Martha, who, in 1875, was also married to F. T. Waring. His son David E. was married to Emma Holmes, and has a family of two children, and John A., his youngest son, was married to Edna Angel, of Dayton, Ohio, and has one child. In politics Mr. Studabaker started out a Whig, and remained so until the war of the Rebellion, when he took an active part in assisting to get volunteers and in filling up the quota of the county. He remained with the Republican party until 1876, when he joined the Greenback party, and was twice on the State ticket and was also a candidate for Congress, but in 1884 he severed his connection with the Greenback party and allied himself with the Prohibition party, and at this time is an active worker in it; being a strictly temperance advocate, he spends his time and means in forwarding the cause. In religion he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, which he joined in 1844, and has been a prominent member ever since, and has aided the church in many ways, donating the ground

and subscribing largely to the commodious edifice of this church in Bluffton. In his younger days he was an active worker in the Sunday-schools. After spending the three score years and ten allotted to man he still works and carries on his business as actively as in his younger days. Treading on borrowed time he thinks it best not to be idle. As a business man Mr. Studabaker has been successful and has accumulated a handsome fortune, and by his aid and assistance many others have homes and enjoy the comforts of life. Both he and his wife having almost arrived at the time to celebrate their golden wedding, enjoy the respect of the community in which they have lived nearly a half century, seeing the county improve from the unbroken wilderness to one among the best improved counties of the State.



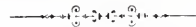
GEORGE DOSTER, deceased, was born in Somersetshire, England, April 21, 1816, and died in Nottingham Township, this county, September 6, 1886. His parents, Hezekiah and Charlotte (Webb) Doster, lived in Somersetshire, where they both died at an advanced age, the father dying February 11, 1872, and the mother one year later. George was reared to manhood on a farm, and was married, March 30, 1840, in his native country, to Miss Jane Hardwidge, born October 5, 1823, daughter of George and Sarah (Jeffrey) Hardwidge. In 1848 he immigrated to America, came to Huron County, Ohio, and engaged in farming. He removed to Nottingham Township, this county, in 1852, which was his home thirty-four years. He was a devoted member of the Baptist church forty-five years, and a Sunday-school superintendent over twenty years. He was a conscientious and consistent Christian,

upright and honorable in all his dealings, and loved and esteemed by all who knew him. Two children were born to George and Jane Doster—John and Hezekiah; the former was born June 16, 1841, and died April 2, 1844; Hezekiah is a physician of Poneto.



JOHN DOUGHERTY, dealer in hay and lumber at Bluffton, is a native of Darke County, Ohio, born on a farm near Greenville, March 17, 1849. His parents, William and Margaret (Studabaker) Dougherty, had a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, he being the third son. He was reared to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm, and was educated in the common schools of his neighborhood, which he attended during the winter terms until reaching the age of sixteen years, after which he taught school for five months. In December, 1868, he came to Wells County, and found employment on the farm of D. D. Studabaker until September, 1869. He then entered the store of James Kain, of Bluffton, as clerk. In May, 1870, he was engaged as bookkeeper by the manufacturing firm of Linn & Studabaker, and in the fall of 1871 he became associated with James Crosbie, B. F. Willy and David Drummond, and was engaged in pork packing, and buying and shipping grain and live stock, under the firm name of Crosbie, Willy & Co., until September, 1872, when the business was discontinued. He then with others engaged in the produce business, and later engaged in the livery business at Bluffton, which he carried on until 1874. In that year he began dealing in lumber at Bluffton with Calvin Whitney, with whom he was associated under the firm name of Whitney & Dougherty, until November, 1883, when the firm name was

changed to John Dougherty & Co. Mr. Dougherty has been twice married. September 27, 1871, he married Mattie E. Best, who lived near Huntington, Indiana. She died at Minneapolis, Minnesota, while on a visit, September 10, 1877, leaving a son named Charles B., who was born at Bluffton, October 2, 1872. Mr. Dougherty was again married December 15, 1880, to Dora E. Owen, a daughter of Seymour and Dollie (Gilson) Owen, of Norwalk, Ohio. This union has been blessed with one child, Owen Gilson, who was born at Bluffton, December 29, 1886. They have an adopted daughter named Mand Cecil Irvin, who has lived with them since February, 1882, being at that time four years of age. Mr. Dougherty is a member of the Methodist church, as was also his first wife. His present wife is a member of the Episcopal church of Norwalk, Ohio.



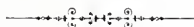
JOHN C. HERRMANN, farmer and tile manufacturer, Nottingham Township, was born in the Kingdom of Saxony, now in the Empire of Germany, in the village of Erbersbach, June 23, 1826, son of John G. and Johanna Sophia (Meyer) Herrmann. His father was a weaver by trade, an occupation he followed during his life-time. John G. was reared in his native village, and in early life worked on farms; but after a few years gave up the farm to learn the stone mason's trade. After serving one year and a half, he and two schoolmates conceived the idea of coming to America to try their fortunes in the new world. Accordingly, in June, 1852, they bade farewell to friends and relatives, went to Bremen and took passage on the German two-masted ship Sophia, and after a voyage of two months they arrived at the Empire City. They were shipwrecked

once during the voyage, and the pumps gave out, and for a whole month passengers and crew had to form bucket lines and bail the water out of the hold. They arrived at New York August 21, and his companions accompanied him as far as Dayton, Ohio, but left there the following spring for Illinois. Mr. Herrmann, however, remained at Dayton until 1860, working the first year on the State Insane Asylum. In the fall of 1860 he came to Wells County and settled upon 160 acres of land which he had purchased about two years before. This land was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and he was obliged to clear even the ground on which to erect his first log cabin, using the logs cut down in the construction of his abiding place. The cabin is still standing on the premises. In the summer of 1884 his sons-in-law, John Bears and John Marsh, commenced the manufacture of tile on Mr. Herrmann's land, and in the summer of 1886 Mr. Herrmann became a member of the firm in the place of Mr. Bears, and the firm is now Herrmann & Co. They have sale for all they can manufacture, and so far have sold it all in Nottingham Township. September 22, 1860, Mr. Herrmann was married to Miss Mary Council, born in Greenville, near Baltimore, Maryland, and a daughter of Samuel and Tabitha Ann (Harwood) Council. The father died in Greene County, Ohio; her mother is living in Montgomery County that State. Mr. and Mrs. Herrmann are the parents of four children—Rose Alice, wife of John Bears; Johanna Sophia, wife of John Marsh; Ann and Jesse. In October, 1864, Mr. Herrmann entered the Union army as a member of Company K, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, and served in the Seventeenth Army Corps, under General Schofield, in Sherman's army. He first went to Tennessee, thence to Dalton, Georgia, thence to Balti-

more, where he took a ship for North Carolina. There he met the rebels near Kingston, and drove them back to the vicinity of Raleigh, where Johnston surrendered his army. He marched with Sherman through the Carolinas to Washington, and participated in the grand review of the victorious armies at the close of the civil war. From Washington he was sent to camp at Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained one month, and was then sent to Indianapolis, where he was discharged in August, 1865. He is a member of the Campbellite church, and his wife of the Christian church. Has been a Republican since coming to the county.

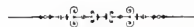
THOMAS A. F. DOAN was born in Staffordshire, England, June 10, 1845, and immigrated to America in 1870. His first permanent location was made at Ossian, in 1870. He is a miller by trade, and for several years was engaged in a large merchant mill at Burton-on-Trent. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Fonndling) Doan, also natives of England, and they reared four children—Mary A., who is the wife of Samuel Kirby, miner; Emma, wife of John Blackshaw, laborer; Sarah deceased, and Thomas; all are in England except Thomas. After his arrival at Ossian Mr. Doan was employed in the stave factory of L. M. Cary, and later at Decatur, Adams County. In 1871 he returned to Ossian, and the 18th of August, the following year, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States, and identified himself with the Republican party. In 1875 he purchased an interest in the saw and planing-mills of Koons & Co., which has continued to the present time. He is book-keeper of the firm and looks after the general interests of the mill. Mr. Doan was first

married in England, to Annie White, and they had one son, Richard, who died at the age of three months. Mrs. Doan died October 8, and the son October 28, 1869. Mr. Doan's second wife, whom he married October 17, 1872, was Miss Mary E. Metts, the marriage ceremony being performed by Rev. L. Roberts, of Ossian. Mrs. Doan is the daughter of James and Miranda (Sutton) Metts, who were among the pioneer families of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Doan are the parents of two children—Maggie Mabel and William Metts. Mr. Doan has become one of the foremost business men of Ossian, and is very highly esteemed in his community.



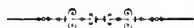
DAVID KERSHNER, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Miami County, Ohio, October 14, 1827, son of Henry and Esther (Wagner) Kershner, natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania, where they were married, then removed to Miami County, where they lived until 1832, thence, by team, to Union County, where they were pioneers. Seven years later the family removed to Wayne County, thence to Blackford County, this State, in 1849, where David was married, and came to Wells County in 1851. They settled on 120 acres of land one-half mile from where he now lives, which was then in its primitive condition. Mr. Kershner went at once to work to clear a space sufficient for a building, and with the logs thus cut down erected his first log cabin. He gave no attention to hunting, although deer and wild game were abundant. He cleared about thirty acres of his land, then removed to Scuffle Creek, Chester Township, upon a partly cleared piece of land. He lived there one year, and in 1865 bought eighty

acres of land where he now resides. About forty acres were cleared, and now about sixty acres are tillable. He has himself made all the improvements on his place. About a year after he came to Wells County, his parents also came to Chester Township, which was their home until 1863, when they removed to Appanoose County, Iowa. In 1872 they returned to Wells County, where the father died in 1877, and the mother in 1881. Mr. Kershner was married in 1850 to Miss Elizabeth M. Putnam, a native of Blackford County, who died in 1856. To this union were born two children, of whom one, William K., is living; Alonzo is deceased. January 9, 1863, Mr. Kershner was married to Miss Peggy Palmer, born in Wayne County, Indiana, and died October 19, 1871. Their two children, Josephine and an infant unnamed, are deceased. Mr. Kershner married his present wife, Nancy Jarrett, July 24, 1879. She was born in Wells County, a daughter of John and Mary (Sills) Jarrett. They are the parents of four children—Elva, Esther, Amanda and Lydia. Mrs. Kershner is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Kershner is a Republican in politics, and has held the offices of supervisor, assessor and land appraiser of his township.



A. LOCKWOOD, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Madison County, Ohio, October 31, 1838, son of Alonzo and Eliza (Stanley) Lockwood. His father is a native of the State of Maine, and followed boating while in that State. His mother is a native of Ohio. When he was eight years of age his parents removed to this county and located in Nottingham Township, where they still reside. He was reared to manhood in this county, and has always

lived here since his first advent here. He purchased forty acres of land where he now resides in 1859, and has since added to it until he now has 120 acres. He was married in Wells County, July 11, 1859, to Miss E. Schooley, born in Martin County, Indiana, and a daughter of Harvey and Mary (Mitchell) Schooley, who reside in Nottingham Township. His children were ten in number, of whom seven are living—Mary Eliza, wife of Thaddens Hurst; Alice Albina, wife of Peter Shoemaker; William Ulysses, Lita, Harvey, Oliver and Thaddens. The deceased are—Litha, Henry Stanley and an infant unnamed. Mr. Lockwood enlisted in the service of the Union in October, 1864, as a member of Company K, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, and was assigned to the Seventeenth Army Corps, under General Sherman. He went to the front at Nashville, thence to Dalton, Georgia, thence to Nashville again, thence to Pittsburg and Baltimore, thence by ship to Morehead City, North Carolina, thence to Kingston, where they drove the rebels to Goldsborough, thence to Raleigh to meet Johnston; but after the line of battle was formed, Johnston refused to fight and laid down his arms. Mr. Lockwood then went to Richmond, thence to Louisville, where he was mustered out, and was discharged the 21st of July, 1865, and returned home. Politically Mr. Lockwood has been identified with the Republican party since the Rebellion.



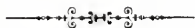
HON. JOSEPH S. DAILEY is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born May 31, 1844, and has always been a resident of the county. He is the fourth son of James Dailey, who in 1850 was elected auditor of said county, when he removed from his farm

to Bluffton, where he lived and faithfully discharged his duties as auditor to the satisfaction of all. The subject of this sketch, after attending the public schools of his native county, received a thorough training in the law department of the State University at Bloomington, Indiana, where he graduated in the winter of 1866, and immediately entered upon the practice of law at Bluffton, Indiana, with Hon. George S. Brown. In October, 1866, he was elected district attorney for the common pleas district in which he resided, and in 1868-'70-'72 and '74 he was elected prosecuting attorney of the judicial circuit to which Wells County was attached. In 1870 he formed a partnership with Hon. Levi Mock, with whom he has since been associated under the firm name of Dailey & Mock. When the Narrow Gauge Railroad was in process of construction Mr. Dailey was attorney for the road, and was at one time a director thereof, and has at all times been an active promoter of public improvements. His acquaintance and relationship is very extensive, and he is affable and obliging in his manners, and his success as a lawyer has been very great. So large is the number of his friends that when the question is asked by one needing a lawyer, "To whom shall I go for advice," the answer springs from many lips, "Go to Joe Dailey." No deserving poor person goes in vain to Mr. Dailey for such aid as is in his power, though he is by no means a rich man. Mr. Dailey's mother was Lydia Garton, a daughter of the well-known Judge Jonathan Garton of Wells County, who died recently at the age of eighty-three years, respected by all who knew him. Mr. Dailey's mother died in 1850, but his father is still living, an upright and intelligent farmer, active still in his labors, at the age of seventy-one years. Mr. Dailey was elected a member of the



Very truly
Joseph S. Dailey

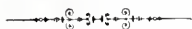
Indiana House of Representatives in 1878, serving his constituents with fidelity. In 1882 he was the nominee of his party for Congressman from the Eleventh Indiana District, but though defeated, he reduced the National Republican majority of that district from 1,080 to 333. Mr. Dailey was married March 15, 1870, at Marion, Indiana, to Emma, daughter of John P. and Henrietta Gutelius. His wife was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 17, 1852, and came with her parents to Wells County in September, 1868, and is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Dailey are the parents of four children—Frank C., born December 22, 1870; Lewis W., born March 8, 1874; Charles G., born March 29, 1876, and Blanche, born February 9, 1886. Mr. Dailey's qualifications as a lawyer are recognized by both bench and bar, and he has been several times called by court and counsel to sit as special judge in the trial of important law suits.



JOHN F. TEMPLETON, farmer and stock-raiser, Rock Creek Township, was born in Putnam County, Ohio, July 3, 1837, a son of Robert H. and Fannie (Schiffenly) Templeton. The father was a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, born April 9, 1807, a son of William Templeton, who was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and whose father came from Scotland to America before the Revolutionary war, and was a General in that memorable struggle for independence. While taking a dispatch from General Washington to some point he was probably killed by Indians or by the British, as he was never heard of afterward. Robert H. Templeton was first married to Sarah Regie, November 8, 1828, in Trumbull County, Ohio, and to them were born two

sons—Warren, who died at the age of thirty-one years while in the service of his country during the late war, and Nelson, who was born June 9, 1834, is now living in Trumbull County, Ohio. Mrs. Robert H. Templeton died in June, 1834, and Mr. Templeton was afterward married to Miss McCollum, of Pennsylvania, who lived but a few months after her marriage. September 13, 1836, he was married to Miss Fannie Schiffenly, who was born near Berne, Switzerland, and when twelve years of age was brought by her parents to America. They first located in Wayne County, Ohio, and shortly afterward moved to Putnam County, where she grew to womanhood, living there until after her marriage. By his last marriage Mr. Templeton had eight children, of whom six still survive. He followed farming in Ohio until the spring of 1848, when he came to Indiana with his family, which then consisted of his wife and six children. They settled on the Indian reserve in Jefferson Township, Wells County, where he entered 160 acres of Government land, where he followed farming the rest of his life, clearing his land and bringing it under good cultivation. He died March 14, 1871, his wife surviving until September 17, 1879, dying in her sixty-first year. John F. Templeton, whose name heads this sketch, was ten years of age when he came with his parents to Wells County, and here he was reared to the avocation of a farmer, his youth being spent in assisting his father on the farm and in attending the subscription school. He resided with his parents until his marriage, January 24, 1860, to Miss Martha A. Quackenbush, a daughter of William and Mary (Allen) Quackenbush, the father born in New York, of German descent, and the mother born in Rhode Island, of Puritan ancestry. Her parents were married in the State of New York, where she was born, they

moving to Trumbull County, Ohio, when she was six years old, and in that county she grew to maturity. Her parents came to Wells County, Indiana, in 1850, and settled in Jefferson Township, where they lived till their death. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Templeton—Ida B. and Mary E., of whom the latter died in infancy. Ida B. married I. E. Brinneman, October 20, 1883, who died February 5, 1886, leaving one child—Ora F. After his marriage Mr. Templeton followed farming in Jefferson Township, Wells County, for five years. In 1873 he bought eighty acres of unimproved land on section 12, Liberty Township, which he cleared and improved, living there until 1883. He then sold his land in Liberty Township and purchased his present farm in Rock Creek Township, where he has eighty acres of well-improved land under fine cultivation. Mr. Templeton is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Lodge No. 45, at Bluffton. In politics he is a Republican.



MRS. MARTHA GARDENOUR, of Uniondale, was born near Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, in 1837, daughter of Abram and Mary Griffin, who were the parents of eight children—Henry, Thomas, Mary A., Caroline, Elias, George, Abram and Martha. All are living and married except the eldest daughter, who is deceased. Our subject was married to Jacob Gardenour in 1850, and they settled in Maryland, where they lived until five children were born—Alice, John, Catherine, Sarah and Ann. In 1864 they removed to Indiana, where Mr. Gardenour purchased the farm upon which his widow now resides, and which was then owned by

his brother John. The latter made his home with them during his life-time, as he was unmarried. In the first place Jacob bought eighty acres, and in 1877 John made his brother a present of the other eighty. When Mrs. Gardenour came to this county with her husband and family they moved into a log house, which is yet standing; but the wildness of the country, even at that late date, was almost sufficient inducement to make him wish to return to his native county had Mrs. Gardenour given her consent. They remained, however, and he became one of the most prosperous farmers. The land has been mostly cleared by himself, and one of the neatest country residences in the township was erected by him prior to his death. Little did they dream when a home was made in the leafy woods of Union Township, that a few years later a beautiful and thrifty village would stand upon a part of their land, and that a railroad would pass their door. Yet all of this has transpired, and Jacob Gardenour and his family have become well known throughout the county. Mr. Gardenour was born in Washington County, Maryland, where he was reared and remained until his marriage. Of his ancestry but little is known. His brother Joseph married Ellen Dewitt, and resides in this county; George is a resident of Smithsburg, Maryland; Maria married Peter Havermale, and lives in Canton, Illinois. These are his brothers and sisters. He was a practical farmer and never held official positions of any kind, preferring to improve his farm and enjoy his home and family. His death occurred in March, 1885. After their location in Wells County, three other children were born—William, Frank and Elvia. Alice married John Crum, and has six children—Frank, Charles, Delbert, Effie, Attie M. and Ivy; John is the husband of Addie Bichley, and they have one son—

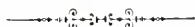
Earl T.; Ann wedded William Scott, who resides on his father's farm in Union Township. The other children live with their mother on the home farm at Uniondale.

DR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON was born in Wayne County, Ohio, January 8, 1825. He read medicine with Dr. Pardee, of Wadsworth, Medina County, Ohio, and attended lectures at Cleveland, Ohio, in the winter of 1848-49. He came to Ossian, Wells County, Indiana, in the spring of 1849 and began the practice of medicine, and remained there until August, 1855, when he removed to Black Hawk County, Iowa, and engaged in his profession until the spring of 1857, when he returned to Wells County, Indiana, and settled at Murray. In the winter of 1864 he again attended lectures at Cleveland, Ohio. In November, 1866, he moved to Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, where he practiced until his death, which occurred January 20, 1879.

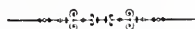
MILES N. NEWMAN, M. D., was born in Van Buren County, Iowa, December 29, 1843, son of William and Hannah (Halliday) Newman. The Newman family are of German ancestry, and were residents of Virginia. William, the father, was born in Ohio, and married in Morgan County, Illinois. After marriage they emigrated to Iowa, settling in Henry County, about 1838. A few years later the family removed to Van Buren County, entered a half section of land, and the parents are yet living upon the original entry. They have six children—James H., of California; Ellen, widow of Lafayette Spencer, of California;

Lorenzo D., of Montana; John D., Hannah M. E. and Miles N. The latter was employed upon his father's farm until he was sixteen years of age, and then matriculated at the Iowa Wesleyan University, at Mount Pleasant; but after attending one year, enlisted in Company H, Third Iowa Cavalry. Until 1864 his regiment was on duty west of the Mississippi, and was then transferred to Nashville, Tennessee. He was actively engaged during the war for four years, and participated in the battles of Moore's Mills, Kirksville, Missouri, Hartsville, Batesville, and Little Rock, Arkansas, and numerous other engagements. He enlisted as a private, was early appointed Corporal, and by virtue of merit promoted to Orderly Sergeant, in which capacity he remained during his term of service. After his return from the army Mr. Newman completed his classical course, and in 1867 began the study of medicine under the tutelage of Dr. J. N. Norris, of Birmingham, Iowa, and matriculated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa, in the fall of 1868. He attended a second course during the winter of 1870-71, and graduated in the spring of that year. Prior to his graduation he was actively engaged in practice at Bainsville, Kansas, and later returned to that village, where he remained until 1873, at which time he located at Birmingham, Iowa. June 11, 1874, he was married in that city to Miss Mary G. Wilson, daughter of William P. and Susanna Wilson, well-known residents of this county. February 20, 1887, a permanent location was made at Ossian, where he has since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. In 1885 he was elected trustee of Jefferson Township, and at the expiration of his term was re-elected. He has charge of the schools in his township, and has exerted his powers in securing the most competent

teachers for the sixteen schools in Jefferson, and the graded school at Ossian is second to none in the county. More school-houses have been built, and the cause of education more largely promoted, during the doctor's term as trustee than ever before, and his reelection is ample evidence that the public appreciates his services. Dr. Newman and his wife have had one son, Sidney, born September 7, 1875, and died August 26, 1883.



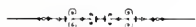
HOMER LEAKE MARTIN, an attorney-at-law of Bluffton, Indiana, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Butler County, October 13, 1851. He received his elementary education in the common school, completing it at the Witherspoon Institute at Butler, Pennsylvania, and at the age of twenty-three years began the study of law in the law department of the Columbia University at Washington, D. C., completing a full course from that institution in June, 1875. The following November he came to Wells County, Indiana, and began the practice of his chosen profession.



PETER BAILEY, deceased, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, May 29, 1818, son of Jacob and Barbara (Rupright) Bailey, early settlers of that county. He learned the carpenter's trade when a young man, and worked at that business for some time after coming to this county. He was reared to industrious and economical habits and always saved his money. In 1827 Jacob Meyer, with his wife Catherine, came from Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and settled near Lordstown. They were the parents of ten children—Nathan, Daniel, Polly,

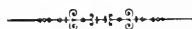
Catherine, Sarah, Lovina, Eliza and Lydia; two are deceased. Lydia Meyer became the wife of our subject in April, 1842, and they began housekeeping near the village of Lordstown, where Peter had purchased twenty acres of land. Six of their children were born in Ohio—Sarah, wife of William Goldner; Mary, wife of Jacob Loo; Catherine, now Mrs. Calvin Spence; Elizabeth, wife of Christian Loo; Jacob, who married Mary Rodgers, of Lockport, New York, and residing at Paulding Center, Ohio; George, who married Emma Lamb, and living at Uniondale. The following were born in Union Township—Joseph E., who married Annie Lepper; Eliza, wife of Isaac Christlieb; Matilda, wife of John Burnside, and Jennie, wife of Levi Shorey. Mr. Bailey removed to this county with his family in 1851, settling upon the farm where his widow now resides. A poor log cabin and one acre cleared were all the improvements that had been made, as the land was situated on the Indian Reserve, which had been open for settlement only a short time. A part of the cabin had no floor, and for several years they lived in a very primitive way. He was able to pay cash for his land, and being the happy possessor of a watch, sold that to his father, who moved the family here, for money enough to buy a cow. While the wife and children were picking brush and rolling up the smaller logs, Peter was working hard at his trade. Their meat was wild game. Wolves howled around the cabin at night, and the babes would nestle closer to their good mother's side as the mournful notes rose high on the midnight air. They could not then foresee that in a few short years railroads would pass so near to them, and that enterprising towns would spring up, where there was nought but an unbroken forest and not a settler's cabin could be seen. They came to the township over the plank

road leading from Fort Wayne to Bluffton, and the early settler depended on the ax to clear a road to the land owned by each; and had they not carried a compass, would frequently have been lost in the woods. Mr. Bailey was one of the first supervisors in the township, and helped to clear up the line and locate the roads running in both directions from his land. During his later years he devoted his time entirely to his farm, and at his death, which occurred May 15, 1873, left a quarter-section of land to his family. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and was one of the first to assist in the establishment of that church in the neighborhood. He was highly respected and his loss was deeply regretted. His wife is now sixty-six years of age, is yet sprightly and cheerful. She resides on the homestead, which is managed by her grandson, Edward L. Goldner.



JOHAN W. MARKLEY, farmer, section 18, Harrison Township, was born in that township February 3, 1843, second son and third child of Gabriel Markley, now deceased. He was reared on a farm, and obtained his education in the subscription and common schools. He remained with his parents until the breaking out of the late civil war, when he enlisted, August 15, 1862, in Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry. He participated in many hard fought battles. Among the most prominent were the battles of Chickamauga, Atlanta, and with Sherman to the sea. During the fight at Chickamauga he received a wound from a ball passing across his breast, which disabled him from active duty for about two months. While following Morgan's troops he met with a narrow escape from the rebel prisons; he was captured, and

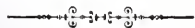
released the same night. After serving three years he was honorably discharged June 19, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. He was married October 24, 1867, to Miss Araminta, daughter of David and Catherine (Gates) Powell, the former a native of Hancock County, Maryland, and the latter of Belmont County, Ohio. They came to this county in 1845, where Mr. Powell died in 1877. Mrs. Markley was born in this county October 26, 1848. After his marriage Mr. Markley settled upon his present farm in Harrison Township, where he owns 272 acres of improved land in a high state of cultivation. They have had five children, four of whom are deceased—Leora died January 19, 1881, aged ten years and four months; Alma died January 28, 1884, aged eight years and seven months; Hannah C., born February 9, 1881, died May 13, 1882; Franklin, born January 13, 1873, still survives; one child died in infancy. Mrs. Markley is a member of the Christian church. In politics Mr. Markley affiliates with the National party.



CHARLES SCOTTON, county commissioner of Wells County, residing on section 31, Lancaster Township, dates his birth in Wayne County, Ohio, near Wooster, October 31, 1841. His parents, John and Dina (Jellings) Scotton, were born and reared in Coventry, England, and were the parents of fourteen children of whom seven yet survive—John J., of Huntington County, Indiana; Mrs. Ann Corlew, also living in Huntington County; Mrs. Dina Carl, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Edwin, living in Kansas; Mrs. Elizabeth Schmatterly, of Kansas; Charles, the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Mary J. Ware, of Wells County. The parents immigrated to the United States in 1832, and

after living one year in Buffalo, New York, they in 1833 removed to Wayne County, Ohio, where they made their home until coming to Wells County, Indiana, in 1842. They settled in Rock Creek Township, where they built their pioneer home in the dense wilderness, and there our subject was reared, his youth being spent in farm labor and in attending the schools of the county. On reaching years of manhood he engaged in farming in Huntington County, where he remained two years. He then returned to Wells County and settled in Lancaster Township, where he has since made his home. June 4, 1863, Mr. Scotton was married to Miss Julia Davis, a daughter of William P. and Lucinda (Richey) Davis, pioneers of Lancaster Township, they having settled near the present site of New Lancaster in 1837. Mr. and Mrs. Scotton have four children living—Emma, wife of H. B. Nelson, a druggist of Bluffton, Indiana; Florence, Harry and George Nelson. Edwin, the fourth child, died September 1, 1878, in his third year. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scotton are members of the Baptist church. Mr. Scotton in his political views is a Democrat, and is prominent in the councils of his party. He served as township trustee from 1882 until 1886 inclusive, and in the latter year was elected county commissioner for a term of four years. His father, John Scotton, was a shoemaker by trade, which he followed in connection with farming. He died at his home in Rock Creek Township in 1854, aged fifty-nine years. In 1856 his widow married William McBride. Mr. McBride had been previously married, and by his first wife had the following children—Warren, Frank, Samuel and John, and Mrs. Barbara Ellen Readling, who is now deceased. Mr. McBride died in 1870. His widow, the mother of our subject, survived until 1875, when

she died at the home of a married daughter at Fort Wayne, at the age of seventy-two years. She had been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for thirty-five years, and was a consistent Christian, esteemed by all who knew her.

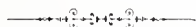


WILLIAM F. BARCHMAN, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1821, son of Frederick and Ragena (Shlagel) Barchman. His parents were also natives of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. His mother's grandparents were from Germany, and her mother was born on the ocean. The parents became acquainted in Luzerne County, and were married in Northampton County, the mother's birthplace. They first settled in Luzerne County, and afterward removed to Butler County when William F. was in his third year. They bought land in Butler County, and added to it from time to time until they had 140 acres in one tract and fifteen acres in another. The country was then very wild, and their experiences were not always pleasant. The father died January 22, 1858, and in June of the same year William F. sold the place and came to Indiana, locating on 160 acres of land he had previously purchased in Chester Township. His mother came the same season, but went back to Pennsylvania again. Two years later she returned to Indiana and made her home with William F. for about twelve years. October 22, 1875, her clothing caught fire and she was fatally burned, living only forty-one hours. She was taken back to Butler County for burial. When our subject came to his present home it was entirely new; not a stick had been cut. Although he sold one farm of eighty acres, he still has 175



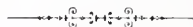
Truly Yours
Levi Mock

aeres of excellent land, of which over ninety aeres are cleared. It is tile-drained, and cannot be excelled in Wells County. Politically Mr. Barnham affiliates with the Republican party.



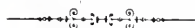
HON. LEVI MOCK, a member of the firm of Dailey, Mock & Simmons, attorneys at law, is a native of the State of Indiana, born in Randolph County April 20, 1840. He was reared in his native county on the home farm, and received his education in the higher schools of the adjoining counties. He was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, enlisting in August, 1862, in Company E, Eighty-fourth Indiana Infantry, receiving an honorable discharge the following April. He commenced reading law under the preceptorship of his uncle, Hon. Enos L. Watson, at Winchester, Indiana, in 1866. In July, 1868, he located at Bluffton, Wells County, where he has since made his home. In March, 1869, he engaged in the practice of law alone, and October 1, 1870, he became associated with Joseph S. Dailey, this being probably the oldest law firm in the State of Indiana. In 1886 Abram Simmons was admitted as a partner, when the firm became known as Dailey, Mock & Simmons. Mr. Mock was united in marriage November 19, 1871, to Rebecca C. Patterson, daughter of Samuel Patterson, and to this union have been born three children—John, aged fourteen years; George, aged twelve, and Charles, aged ten years. In March, 1869, Mr. Mock was elected mayor of Bluffton, was re-elected to the same office every year until 1876, serving in that capacity altogether eight years. In 1879 and 1880 he was president of the Wells County Agricultural Society. In 1882 he was elected on

the Democratic ticket to represent the counties of Adams, Jay and Wells in the Indiana State Legislature, and in 1884 was re-elected as a Representative from Wells and Blackford counties, and in 1886 was again elected to represent Wells County. He is a member of the present Legislature, serving on the committees on federal relations, organization of courts, mileage and accounts, and dikes and drains. In all the above official relations he has given entire satisfaction, always serving to the best interests of his township or county. Mr. Mock is a man of great physical strength, and stands six feet six inches high. His father, Emsley Mock, was also a man of great size, being six feet five and a half inches in height. He has a pleasant, unassuming, affable manner that makes everyone feel at ease in his presence. He is very fond of the chase, and for a number of years was a leader of the Bluffton Hunting Club, and made several excursions to distant points, where he exhibited marked skill as a huntsman. In 1882 he killed a buck, the hide of which he had tanned and made into a pair of boots, which he has worn most of the time since, including his attendance at three sessions of the Legislature in 1883, 1885 and 1887. In his religious views Mr. Mock is a Universalist.



WILLIAM WOLF, who is one of the active and enterprising agriculturists of Rock Creek Township, was born in Stark County, Ohio, the date of his birth being June 17, 1832. His parents, Daniel and Sarah (Heflea) Wolf, were born in the State of Maryland, of Irish and German ancestry respectively. They were married in Maryland, and subsequently removed to Stark County, among the early settlers of that

county. William Wolf was reared on a farm in his native county, remaining there until 1853, when he came to Indiana with his parents and settled in Markle, Huntington County. He was married July 20, 1854, to Miss Mary L. Baker, a daughter of Christopher Baker, and to this union were born nine children—Susannah (deceased), John (deceased), Sarah E., wife of Jeremiah Platt, Harriet, Margaret, wife of Newton Taylor, William F., Daniel C., Channey, M. and Henry A. Mr. Wolf resided in Markle until two years after his marriage, where he was engaged in working at the cooper's trade. In March, 1859, he removed with his family to the Baker homestead on section 10, Rock Creek Township, which he now owns and occupies, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. and Mrs. Wolf are members of the Lutheran church. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party.



DONALDSON WILSON, of Uniondale, was born in Union Township, this county, in 1851, son of John I. and Margaret (Harris) Wilson, natives of Washington County, Pennsylvania. The parents were married in that State, and soon after removed to Trumbull County, Ohio, where their children, James, Thomas W., George, Martha J., Albert and Margaret, were born. They owned a small farm in the country. September 25, 1849, they came West, and Mr. Wilson purchased 200 acres of land in Union Township, this county. This purchase and the removal of his family to the new country consumed the most of his money, and although he owned plenty of land, it was in a primitive state, and he had no produce to sell even if there had been a market for it. The immense forest of trees

covered the ground, and it took years of toil to make it productive. The first log cabin stood where the old orchard, planted by John Wilson, still remains, and where their last two children, Donaldson and Mary A., were born. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were for many years members of the first Presbyterian church organized in that part of the county, and when they left it it was only to join that church at Murray, as it was more convenient. He was not a politician in any sense, but was always happier when employed on his farm and at home with his family. Their children were well educated, and George was engaged in teaching many years, having attended the academy at Murray. Thomas, now a lawyer at Fort Wayne, graduated at that city, and afterward taught school until he began the study of law. Albert also taught school in Jefferson Township. Mr. Wilson died March 15, 1874, and Mrs. Wilson nineteen days afterward. They died as they had lived, devout Christians, who had lived exemplary lives and reared a family who do them honor. Thomas married Elizabeth E. Davis; George married Sarah Harter; Martha married Robinson Hatfield; Albert married Mary J. Fleming; Mary is the wife of William J. Wasson, and Donaldson married Drusilla E., daughter of Aaron and Sarah B. Fleming, of Lancaster Township, the ceremony being performed June 11, 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson Wilson first lived on the home farm, and two years later Mr. Wilson purchased his present farm. To them have been born three children—Margaret B., on the old homestead, and William A. and Kittie J. on their present farm. Their eldest child, Margaret, is deceased. Mr. Wilson is one of the few early settlers of the county who escaped most of the hardships of pioneer life. The rough work was mostly completed before he was old enough to give material assistance.

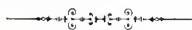
His brother George was the only son engaged in the service during the war. He was a member of Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, and he died soon after his discharge, of disease contracted while in the service.

GEORGE F. DICKASON, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, April 11, 1831, son of John W. and Nancy (Stanley) Dickason. He lived in his native county until he was seventeen years of age, following farming principally. In 1848 the family removed to Nottingham Township, this county, where the father purchased a farm not far from where he now resides. The mother died in this county March 25, 1881. George F. made his home with his parents until his marriage, although he worked out by the month on the farm. In 1856 he had accumulated enough to buy eighty acres of land where he now resides. This land was at that time covered with a heavy growth of timber, and an ax had never marred one of the trees. The roads that now pass by his house on the north and east had been blazed when the township was surveyed, but nothing had been done toward making roads for travel. His first work was to clear out some of the brush on the line of the road, to pay his road tax. Mr. Dickason has cleared fully sixty acres of his land almost entirely with his own hands. March 26, 1857, he was married to Miss Caroline Houdyshell, a native of Clarke County, and a daughter of George and Susan (Gentis) Houdyshell, also natives of Ohio, the former of Hocking County, and the latter of Clarke County. They removed to Indiana in 1838, landing a mile and three-quarters southwest of Vera Cruz, this county, and the

next day he had to go two and a half miles for water. While he was absent his wife was cooking meat, and five wolves, attracted by the odor of the meat, set up a howl outside which was continued until chased away by the father when he returned with the water. That year Mr. Houdyshell went back to Springfield, Ohio, to mill, taking a wagon for transportation. The Indians often came and looked in the windows at night. The father died in this county December 23, 1883, and the mother, July 12, 1881, in Shawnee County, where they were living at that time. Mr. and Mrs. Dickason were the parents of six children, one, John Franklin, being deceased. Those living are—Mahala, Eveline, wife of Andrew Klinger, of Warren, Huntington County; Aggie C., wife of Henry Klinger; Susan Isadora, wife of Julian Adzett; Mary Aldine and Ezekiah. Both parents are members of the Protestant Methodist church, and in politics he is a Greenbacker.

CHRISTOPHER BAKER, one of the old and honored pioneers of Wells County, who is now deceased, was a native of Baden, Germany, born in the year 1804, a son of William and Barbara Baker. When he was sixteen years of age his father died, after which he served an apprenticeship at the tailor's trade. He then served two years in the army, when he was discharged on furnishing a substitute. He was united in marriage in 1827, to Miss Elizabeth, a daughter of Philip M. Zimmerman, of Baden, Germany. They remained in their native country until 1835, when they set sail for America, and after a voyage of eight weeks landed at Baltimore, Maryland. He followed his trade at Baltimore for five years, when he

removed with his family near the Pennsylvania State line, sixty-four miles from the city of Baltimore, where he followed his trade during the winter months, and in the summers worked as a laborer for three and a half years. He then removed to Crawford County, Ohio, where he made his home until coming to Wells County, Indiana, September 21, 1851. He then purchased 182 acres of unimproved land on section 6, Rock Creek Township, and after clearing and improving thirty acres he traded his land for the farm on section 9, Rock Creek Township, which is now owned and occupied by his son-in-law, William Wolf, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died June 20, 1880, his death being a source of universal regret throughout the township where he had made his home for so many years. His wife died February 5, 1877, at the age of seventy-eight years. Both were earnest members of the Lutheran church. In his political views he was a Democrat. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Baker three are deceased—Frederick, Philip and Annie. The only surviving member of the family is Mary L., now the wife of William Wolf.

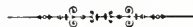


HON. NEWTON BURWELL, although contemplating a change of residence to some point in the far West, deserves none the less a notice in a work of this kind, as the traces of his work as a reformer in this county are too conspicuous to be ignored. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 1, 1836, son of James and Sarah (Norman) Burwell. His father, who was a cooper by trade, moved with the family to this county in 1847, arriving at Bluffton February 7. Here he followed his trade, and for a time was in the employ of the firm of Studabaker

& Co. in the warehouse business. Young Newton attended the Bluffton schools; then, in 1856 '57, attended the State University at Bloomington, where, in March, 1858, he graduated in the law department. Returning home, he commenced, during the following month, the practice of law alone. About ten or eleven years afterward he admitted James S. Wisner as partner, but after two years this relation was dissolved, and Mr. Burwell conducted his business alone for a time. From 1872 to 1874 he had Mr. A. N. Martin as a partner. About this time the great tidal wave, known as the "temperance crusade," began to roll in every direction, until it struck Bluffton, bearing Mr. Burwell upon its crest. A temperance meeting was appointed at the Methodist church, which Mr. Burwell was persuaded to attend. Being known as a public speaker, and the occasion being such as to touch delicately upon personal habits and public relations, he trembled lest he be called upon to speak, and his wife also trembled for him. Sure enough he was called upon, and he took the pulpit, and he surprised the audience, as well as himself, by the inspiration with which he favored the temperance reform. Heart and soul he entered the movement, carrying out his convictions in an honest and earnest endeavor to secure temperance legislation, and "temperance execution" of the laws. Hence, of course, he had some political opposition. In April, 1876, Mr. Burwell moved to Fort Wayne, where for nearly two years he was engaged in the practice of his profession. He was then induced to enter the itineracy of the Methodist Episcopal church, where he served three years, from April, 1878, to April, 1881, on Hupertown circuit, Kendallville station and Ossian circuit, this county, in the North Indiana Conference. Returning to Bluffton he re-engaged, in 1883, in the

practice of law, which he has since continued. In his public relations he has served the people of his county faithfully. In 1858, in his youngest days as a practitioner of law, he was elected prosecuting attorney of the common Pleas Court for the counties of Huntington and Wells, but resigned before the close of his first term; served one term as mayor of Bluffton; was trustee of the corporation of Bluffton, and member of the school board; was elected a member of the Legislature in 1864, as a Democrat, when his party was in a hopeless minority, representing the counties of Wells and Blackford. Afterward, while he was again a member of the school board, he was active in forwarding the erection of the present school building, and introduced the graded system. He also took an active interest in the building of the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad, when the people of this county took \$100,000 stock in the enterprise, by sustaining the commissioners in making the appropriation. January 31, 1861, is the date of Mr. Burwell's marriage to Miss Josephine, daughter of Adnah and Abigail (Blatchley) Hall. (A sketch of her father is given elsewhere in this work.) The children of Mr. and Mrs. Burwell are—Anna, who died at the age of six or seven months; Rena, born January 25, 1864, now teaching school in Wichita, Kansas; Alfred Conwell, born February 11, 1866, now attorney at law in Wichita, Kansas, (was admitted to the bar before he was twenty-one years of age); James Burton, born October 14, 1868, now a teacher at Rapid City, among the Black Hills of Dakota; Louise, born December 23, 1872; Walter, who died when about ten months old; Norman Blatchley, born in Fort Wayne August 31, 1876, (their "Centennial boy"); Bessie, born also in Fort Wayne, in July, 1878, and Mary, born in Bluffton in Septem-

ber, 1881. Mrs. Burwell has also been a prominent worker in the temperance cause, and is an exemplary member of society.



WALTER T. PERRY, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Washington County, Ohio, December 17, 1845, son of Thomas and Matilda Perry. When he was in his fifth year his parents removed to Blackford County, this State, and one year later, came to Wells County, where the father purchased land in Chester Township. Walter has always made his home in this county ever since his arrival here. He has owned his present farm of eighty acres since 1879, but resided on it some time previous to his purchase. He was married March 16, 1868, to Miss Anna E. Brannum, a native of Fayette County, and daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Ball) Brannum, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Windsor County, Vermont. They were married in Missouri, and removed to Wells County in 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Perry are the parents of five children—Arthur W., Russey T., Lillie V., Rosa A. and Nellie E. When a few days over eighteen years of age, Mr. Perry enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Infantry, and joined his regiment at Kokomo. From there he went to Louisville, thence to Nashville, where they were assigned to the Twenty-third Army Corps, under Major-General Schofield. His first engagement was at Buzzard's Roost; after that he participated in the battles of Resaca, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Decatur, siege and capture of Atlanta, Pine Mountain, battle of Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864, and Kinston, North Carolina. He also participated in the heavy battle at Franklin, Tennessee, in which battle

his regiment was not engaged. He accompanied Sherman in his march through the Carolinas, being in Washington about two weeks before joining the army in North Carolina. He was discharged at Charlotte, North Carolina, December 2, 1865, and returned by rail to Indianapolis, thence home. Mrs. Perry's youngest brother, Joseph Brannum, born in 1841, enlisted in 1861, a member of the Forty-seventh Indiana Zouaves. He was severely wounded at the battle of Champion Hills, below Vicksburg, was taken prisoner by the rebels and paroled, was brought away under a flag of truce, was sent to hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, and died June 24, 1863, aged twenty-one years and five months.

MAJOR PETER STUDABAKER, an active and influential citizen of Wells County, a member of the banking firm of John Studabaker & Co., and an extensive farmer, is a native of the State of Ohio, born in Darke County, February 26, 1833. His parents, Abraham and Elizabeth (Hardman) Studabaker, were among the first settlers of Darke County. Major Studabaker was reared and educated in his native county at the common schools until attaining the age of fourteen years, when he came to Bluffton and entered the store of his brother, John Studabaker (to whom he is indebted for his early business education), as clerk, and continued so until 1851, when, at only eighteen years of age, he was taken into partnership with his brother in the dry goods business. He was united in marriage, October 28, 1852, to Sarah Morgan, daughter of John Morgan, an extensive miller from Lancaster, Ohio. They have five living children, three sons and two daughters. George W., the eldest, was

married to Olive Kemp in 1876, and lives on a farm near Bluffton, and is employed as paying teller in the Exchange Bank. James M. was married to Emma Ervin in 1881, and resides in Bluffton and is a dealer in jewelry. Anna E. was married to John H. Thornburg, a druggist of Farinland, Indiana, in 1882, and resides there. Alice was married in 1887, to Charles E. Lacey, a young attorney and member of the firm of Wilson, Todd & Lacey, and resides in Bluffton. Hugh D., the youngest, is at home, and looks after the farm and stock. David, a bright boy of eleven years, was accidentally drowned in the Wash River June 10, 1868. In 1857 Mr. Studabaker retired from the dry goods business and engaged in farming and stock-raising and buying and shipping to Eastern markets. In 1858, then but twenty-five years of age, he was elected treasurer of Wells County, and in 1860 was re-elected to the same office. When the Rebellion of 1861 broke out he took an active part in raising volunteers for the Union army. In 1862 he enlisted as private, while yet county treasurer, and August 15, 1862, was commissioned Captain of Company B, One Hundred and First Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was immediately sent to the front with the regiment, and on June 1, 1863, was commissioned Major of his regiment. The regiment saw much active service and was in most of the battles under General Thomas in the Fourteenth Army Corps, and in the battle of Chickamauga was the last to leave the battlefield. He was with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and marched with him to the sea at Savannah, thence through the Carolinas to Goldsborough, thence to Raleigh, North Carolina, and after the surrender of Johnston's army marched to Washington, D. C., via Richmond, West Virginia, and was in the grand reunion at Washington in May, 1865. From thence



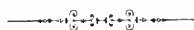
Given
Rev. Studabaker

he traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, by rail and steamboat, and was there mustered out with his men June 24, 1865. From thence he went to Indianapolis, Indiana, where the regiment was paid off, and he returned home July 4, 1865. He was wounded in the left foot at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, but while in the service never lost a day from sickness or any other cause. No company of soldiers ever had an officer who was more devoted to their welfare and comfort than the company that Major Studabaker led to the field from Wells County, as is well attested by the surviving members of his regiment. After his return he resumed farming and stock raising and in 1866 accepted the position of cashier in the First National Bank, and in 1869 he became a member of the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Co., which as a private bank is meeting with excellent success. In 1874 Major Studabaker was elected commissioner of Wells County, was re-elected to the same office in 1876 and 1880, and while commissioner had the superintending of the building of the county infirmary and jail, two splendid buildings of which the people of the county are justly proud, and also took an active part in building both our railroads and was among the foremost in advocacy of our free gravel roads, and the people of the county are largely indebted to Major Studabaker for the success of that enterprise in our midst. As a business man and accountant he has no superior in the county, and his integrity, honesty and judgment are so well known that his advice is sought after more frequently, perhaps, in both public and private affairs than that of any other man in Bluffton. Considered either as a man, a county official, neighbor, soldier, patriot or friend, Major Studabaker is popular and honorable. In politics he is a Democrat and cast his first vote as such.

He is a member of the Baptist church and also of the Masonic lodge of Bluffton, Indiana. Both he and his wife are highly esteemed, and are well and favorably known for their generosity and acts of kindness. Their home is open to their many friends.

WILLIAM PATRICK McMAHON was born at Sidney, the county seat of Shelby County, Ohio, February 24, 1855. Parents were from County Kerry, Ireland. He received a limited education in the public schools of that place, but could have had better were it not for a roving disposition that led him to run away from home at the age of twelve and go West. He followed railroading in almost every line until he reached the age of twenty-two. He first came to Wells County in 1870, but left in a short time, returning at different times until he at last settled down in Bluffton in 1876. August 28, 1878, he married Ida Ann Ridgley, the only daughter of Westal Ridgley, one of Wells County's first settlers. This marriage is blest with one son—Thomas. Mr. McMahon entered political life almost as soon as he was old enough to vote, a warm Democrat, but severed his connection with that party when the Greenback party was organized, and became one of its most ardent advocates. In the start of his work for this party he followed ditching for a living, but stumped the county at night, proclaiming its principles. At the request of the leaders of the party he purchased the *Wells County Times* in 1879 from James Gary Smith, under whose control the paper had suspended publication. The first issue from his hands appeared about the middle of January, 1879, since which the paper has never suspended publication up to this date. May 2, 1879, he

bought out the *Daily Times*, the first daily paper ever published in Wells County. He owned and published both the papers successfully until August, 1880, when John Studabaker, who held a mortgage on the paper, and a leading Greenbacker at the time, disagreed with him on the land question, in consequence of which Mr. Studabaker forced him out of the paper. Mr. McMahon started at once the *Daily and Weekly Herald*, which he moved to Fort Wayne. Associated with George B. Flening and William B. Walters, he started the *People's Advocate*, which collapsed after a short period on account of the incompetency of his partners. In the eventful campaign of 1886 for Wells County, in which the people's movement made such a hard fight for success, Mr. McMahon took a prominent part, and started the *Daily* and *People's Advocate*, and is now engaged in that business. Politically he still remains in the labor movement. He was the first charter member of Bluffton Local Assembly of Knights of Labor 6,282. Religiously he was raised a Catholic, but at present is a free-thinker.



JAMES ALEXANDER, an active and enterprising agriculturist of Jackson Township, residing on section 27, was born in Logan County, Ohio, August 22, 1827, a son of Robert and Mary (Wilkinson) Alexander. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Mifflin County February 19, 1793, of Irish parentage. He was reared on a farm in his native State, and when a young man went to Champaign County, Ohio, where he was married February 26, 1822, to Miss Mary Wilkinson, a native of Virginia, born October 11, 1793, who came with her parents to Ohio when

about sixteen years of age. After living a few years in Champaign County, they removed to Logan County, and in May, 1837, the father came with his family to Elkhart County, Indiana, making the journey by team. That county was then quite new, but settlers were beginning to locate there. They remained in Elkhart County until February, 1838, coming thence to Wells County, where the father had entered 120 acres of wild land in Jackson Township the previous fall. Not a tree had been cut on the place when they came here, and while the father was building his cabin the family lived in a log cabin about three quarters of a mile away which was already occupied by two other families. Edward Alexander and family, a brother of Robert, came with the family and lived with them in their log cabin for a time. The cabin had but one opening for a door, and this was made high from the ground so that their hogs could be kept out. When their cabin was put up there were eight or ten inches of snow on the ground, and when they built a fire the snow melted, and it was only by covering the floor with clapboards left from the roof that they could keep out of the mud. Deer and other wild animals were numerous, and these furnished the family with meat when brought down by the trusty rifle of the old pioneer. The mother of our subject died October 31, 1868, and the father April 4, 1872. They were well known throughout the community and highly respected citizens. In politics he was formerly an old-line Whig, and later a Republican. For a number of years in the early history of the county he served as one of the trustees of Jackson Township. James Alexander, whose name heads this sketch, was in his eleventh year when he came with his father's family to Wells County, and here he was reared amid the scenes attending the clearing up of

a new country, and his youth was spent in assisting his father clear their heavily timbered farm. He remembers that during the first year of their settlement their horses ran away, and the crop had to be tended with oxen hitched up and broken into the work. October 14, 1852, he was married to Miss Mary McKee, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 3, 1833, a daughter of Peter and Rhoda (Peters) McKee, natives of Ohio and Virginia respectively. The parents of Mrs. Alexander came to Indiana and located in Blackford County in 1843, and there the father died about 1871. The mother is still a resident of Washington Township, Blackford County. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, of whom three are yet living—William Edward, engaged in teaching in Somerset, Wabash County; Julia and Jennie. Robert Peter is deceased. In politics Mr. Alexander is a Republican, and has held local offices. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Protestant church, and he is one of the advisory committee of Salamonie circuit. For nearly half a century he has lived in Jackson Township and has witnessed the many wonderful changes that have taken place, transforming the wilderness into well cultivated farms and prosperous villages. The first sermon preached in Jackson Township was at his father's house, by Rev. George W. Bowers of the Methodist Episcopal church, on Christmas eve, 1838, and the first religious organization was formed at his father's cabin with eleven members. His father was a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, and was licensed to preach in 1840, and held meetings all over the county. Mr. Alexander is one of the prosperous farmers of Jackson Township. His farm contains 240 acres, 90 of which are under a good state of cultivation. His house is one of the many

fine ones in the neighborhood, surrounded with shade and ornamental trees. He is engaged in general farming. Mr. Alexander enlisted in the war for the Union, October 14, 1864, and was discharged July 9, 1865. He was assigned to Company II, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry. He was sent to his regiment in Georgia, and at Dalton was sick with measles, and on his recovery was placed on extra duty as nurse in the hospital at Louisville, Kentucky, remaining there until his final discharge at Louisville, after which he returned to his home in Jackson Township, where he has since lived.

JOSEPH GORRELL is the oldest man now living in Wells County, and one of the oldest settlers. He was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, August 3, 1802, son of James and Sarah (Mullholland) Gorrell. The paternal ancestors were natives of Ireland, and the maternal, of Wales. The parents were married in Washington County, Pennsylvania, about 1790, and reared a family of sixteen children. Two others died in infancy. Upon their farm in Pennsylvania, the parents lived and died. Our subject was educated in the subscription schools of his native county, and his father, who was a fairly educated man, taught free night schools in the neighborhood, which Joseph attended. Through the instruction given by his father, and the resident minister, he secured a good education, which, added to his good judgment, has made him a man of note in his township and county for almost half a century. He began teaching when seventeen years of age, his terms being taught in the winter, while he worked at the carpenter's trade during the summer. He also taught vocal music until after his marriage with Miss Esther Glass,

that ceremony being performed September 13, 1825. Her parents, John and Ann (Johnson) Glass, were natives of Beaver County, Pennsylvania, where they remained during life. Mr. Gorrell settled in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1832, making a home in the wild woods, and ere he came to Indiana, had a nice farm cleared. Their children—William (now deceased), Joseph, Matilda, Sarah and Mary (twins, and now deceased), Andrew and Cyrus, were born upon that farm. James, John G. and Milo J. were born prior to their removal to Ohio, February, 1832. Mr. Gorrell, with his family, settled on section 21, Jefferson Township, September, 1845, he having made a purchase of the entire section and half of section 28. Not a tree had been felled upon the entire tract. With the aid of the three eldest sons a nice cabin was soon built, and in a short time the family were settled in their new home, and the work of clearing a new farm was commenced. Their goods were transported with teams, one of which was the third span of horses in the township. Oxen were in almost universal use in an early day. They were preferred to horses on account of their living being mostly secured by browsing. Quite an Indian village was located in the southwest corner of Allen County, and the Indians hunted during the winter season. They were very friendly to the new-comers and freely shared their venison with all who desired. White Loon, the chief, was quite an intimate friend of Mr. Gorrell, and remained upon his reservation in Allen County until his death. Although White Loon was a great friend to the whites, yet it was currently reported that he had stored away the dried tongues of ninety-nine white men. This was not improbable, as all the Indians in this county were under the control of the noted Indian chief, Tecumseh, and nearly all of them were engaged in the

great battle of Tippecanoe, near Lafayette, Indiana, during the Indian war of 1812-'13. In 1847 ague became prevalent, and there were not well people enough in the neighborhood to care for the sick. The winter brought relief, and year by year prosperity became more general. The impetus given to clearing land by the coming of Mr. Gorrell and his brothers-in-law, James and John Glass, was marked, there having been a few of the early settlers who continued to live upon the products of their rifles and their traps. Game of various kinds furnished not only the meat, but the pelts brought cash enough to pay taxes and secure a few other necessary articles. Wildcat money was plentiful enough, but it would not pass in other States, consequently, men were not anxious to obtain it. In 1847 Mr. Gorrell was elected justice of the peace, his commission bearing the name of President Van Buren. Instead of trying to make official fees, most of his time was spent in trying to arbitrate the cases brought before him. During the twenty-nine years in which he served the people, at least three-fourths of the cases that came before him were successfully arbitrated, and many personal friendships were thus brought about. Only two appeals were ever made from his decisions in all those years, and both decisions were sustained in the higher courts. He has administered twenty-seven estates in this county, some of them far up into the thousands of dollars, all of which was done without the loss of a dollar. James and Andrew Gorrell entered the service soon after the breaking out of the war. They enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, of which James was First Lieutenant. Joseph, then a graduate of medicine from the Buffalo Medical College, enlisted as Surgeon of another regiment which was formed in De Kalb County where he resided. Cyrus enlisted in

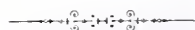
Company C, Seventy-fifth Regiment, in 1862. He served during the war and lost the sight of his right eye. James resigned and returned home the second year of his enlistment, the other son remained until the close of the war. All served in the most important battles of the war. All of Mr. Gorrell's children are happily married and all have families. His estimable wife, after a long and well-spent life, was laid to rest in Ossian cemetery, April 25, 1879. Her remains have since been placed in the new cemetery at Ossian. Mr. Gorrell resides in the village and has a competency for his declining years. No man has ever lived in Jefferson Township who has done more to cultivate and promote harmony and enterprise than our subject. For sixty-two years he has been a member of the Presbyterian church, and since 1833 has been an ordained elder. Continuously, since 1846, he has served this church in that capacity, and his life has been such as proclaims the Christian as well as the gentleman.

and in the fall of the same year returned to the Ohio Medical, and graduated in the spring of 1878. He then continued his practice at Barber's Mills until the fall of 1882, at which time he located in Bluffton, Indiana, and has continued in a successful practice to the present.

JOHN STANLEY LOCKWOOD, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Champaign County, Ohio, February 2, 1844, son of Alonzo and Eliza (Stanley) Lockwood. His father was born in the State of Maine, and followed boating during his residence in that State and previous to his removal to Ohio. In 1848 the family removed to Indiana, locating in Nottingham Township, Wells County, where they still reside. Here John Stanley, or Stanley, as he is usually called, was reared to manhood, and has always made his home in Nottingham Township since coming to the county. In 1865 his father gave him forty acres of land, which he afterward sold, and bought eighty acres where he now lives, to which he has since added forty acres more. The land was covered by a heavy growth of timber when he purchased it; he now has about eighty-five acres cleared. May 1, 1865, he was married to Miss Margaret E. Gibson, born in Noble County, this State, and a daughter of George W. and Mary (Michaels) Gibson. Her parents died in Noble County when she was a child, and she was reared by her uncle in Champaign County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood have had six children, four of whom are living—John Wilbur, Eva Janetta, William Ulysses and Pearl Edwin; the deceased are Hettie Mexilla and Rosetta. In 1861 Mr. Lockwood volunteered his services in behalf of the Union, and on the 1st day of

A. SPAULDING, M. D., was born in 1847 in Blackford County, Indiana. He was reared a farmer boy. At the age of nineteen he entered the high school at Liber College, Indiana, and remained two years; afterward attended college at Ridgeville, Indiana, two years. The next three years were spent as traveling salesman in the Western States. In 1873 he began the study of medicine at Montpelier, Indiana, under Dr. William Ransom. After attending one part and one full course of lectures at the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati, he located at Barber's Mills, Indiana. He was married in the summer of 1877 to Miss Nan-
nie J. Shelton, of Hartford City, Indiana,

March became a member of Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. He joined his regiment in this county, its members being home on a veteran furlough, and went with it directly to the front, and ten days after leaving Indianapolis they met the rebels at Alexandria, Louisiana. He remained with his regiment in Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana until after the battles of Forts Spanish and Blakely, and the capture of Mobile, which was the last engagement of the civil war. He was mustered out at Baton Rouge, discharged there October 23, 1865, and returned home via Cairo and Indianapolis. He lost his health in the service, and has never entirely recovered. Politically he is a Republican.



LEVI OSBORN, of Ossian, was born in Canfield, Trumbull County, Ohio. August 12, 1827, son of Jacob and Elizabeth M. (Harris) Osborn. James Harris, father of Elizabeth M., was probably born in the town of Milford, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, of Irish ancestry. His wife was Alice Woodard, and they reared a large family of children, some of whom are living—Elizabeth M., Mary, John, Thomas (deceased), Margaret, James, Ann and David (deceased), Hannah, Joseph, Robert and Rachel. Margaret, Ann, James and Hannah came to Indiana and settled in Wells County; John settled in Adams County; the latter and Margaret are now deceased. John Osborn, grandfather of our subject, was a son of Nicholas Osborn, who came to America from England prior to the Revolutionary war. He was accompanied by two brothers, and all were soldiers in that war; but no trace of the two brothers has ever been found since the close of the war. Mrs. John Osborn was

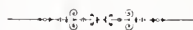
a German lady; they had ten children—Conrad, Nicholas, Jacob, John, William, Jonathan, Amos, Andrew, Margaret and Elizabeth. Jacob Osborn was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was twice married. His first wife was Annie Babbitt, and their children were—Elias, Harmon, Mary A. (deceased) and Aaron. After the death of his wife, Jacob married Elizabeth Harris, and their children were—Levi, James, Margaret and Elizabeth (twins), Eliza J., Anna and William; all are living and married except Anna, who married William Gorman, and Elizabeth, who died in infancy. The death of Jacob Osborn occurred when our subject was twelve years of age, and when he was twenty-one years old he came to Wells County and pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 24, Union Township. He built a pole shanty on the land the day before it was entered, ate and slept in it. This was the western boundary of settlement at that date. He cut and burned the first pile of brush to cook his supper, and may be said to have made the first clearing in his immediate neighborhood. During the first eight months of his stay in the county Mr. Osborn worked by the month for William W. Cotton, who brought his family to this county at the same time our subject came. Levi returned to his old home in April, 1849, and remained until September of the following year, then returned to his home in the new country, bringing his wife, Catherine Ashburn, whom he married June 13, 1850. She was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Hart) Ashburn. Her father's people were German, and her mother's were Irish. They removed to this county in April, 1854, to make their home with their children. Mr. Ashburn died at the home of Mr. Osborn October 12, 1886, aged eighty-six years. His wife is still living with Mr. Osborn's family, and has reached the mature age of eighty



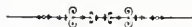
J. C. Fulton. M.D.

years. Their children were—Catherine, William, Mary, Jesse, Nelson and Prossor. Mr. Osborn erected a log cabin on the spot where his fine farm house now stands, and they occupied it October 28, 1850. Under its roof all their children were born except the youngest—Joseph N. married Albina Longshore; Elizabeth E. married O. C. Krewson; Jacob W. married Paulina Sowle; Mary E. became the wife of Orland J. Krewson, and after his death married his brother Thomas; Elias E., William W., Etta M. and Anna M. are unmarried and reside with their parents. Our subject made all the furniture with which they commenced housekeeping. Blankets served for doors, and not a sawed board was used in the construction of the house, except the lid of a chest which was used in making a window. The bedsteads were made of poles, the seats of puncheon slabs, the table of clapboards and the floor of the same material. Mr. Osborn worked for some of his neighbors by the day, for which he received corn and potatoes. Although the woods were full of game, he never hunted, or even killed a deer or turkey, but devoted all his time to the cultivation of his land. They became members of the first Methodist Episcopal church organized in the neighborhood; this church is still in existence. Mr. Osborn has been an officer in the church for almost a quarter of a century. During the progress of the war he was drafted, but after being in camp two weeks at Indianapolis he was released, the township having filled her quota. In 1853 he was elected trustee of the township, and during his term of service the Centre school-house was built and several new roads laid out. Politically he is a Republican, and was one of the founders of that party in this county. January 1, 1885, he was injured by a saw falling upon his left foot, which resulted in its amputation by Dr.

Stemen, of Fort Wayne, at St. Joseph's hospital. This disables him from active farm work, but his general health is unusually good.



WILLIAM MCKENDREE MADDOX was born in Chester Township, Wells County, March 1, 1858, son of Wesley Harvey and Eliza Ann (Grove) Maddox. He was reared in this county and educated in the schools of Chester Township, and also at Bluffton. He was married August 17, 1881, to Miss Laura Alice Twibell, also a native of Chester Township, and daughter of John J. and Annelia (Boyd) Twibell. Mr. and Mrs. Maddox are the parents of one child—Harry. Mr. Maddox owns sixty-five acres of land, all of which is cleared. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party.



DRS. JOHN G. AND GEORGE E. FULTON are great-great-grandsons of James Fulton, who immigrated to this country from Ireland in the year 1765, accompanied by his brothers, viz.: Joseph, Robert and Abraham, and their two sisters, Margaret Fulton Quin and Pollie Fulton Boyd, the latter being the honored mother of Revs. John, James, Benjamin and Abraham Boyd, many descendants of whom are to-day enumerated in the devoted ranks of Presbyterianism. James, the great-grandfather, was the father of five sons and one daughter, viz.: James, Abraham, Robert, Cochran, Benjamin and Sarah; the second son being the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He was married to Ann Smith, unto whom were born seven sons, all of whom grew to manhood, were married and have families, viz.:

James, the eldest, died at the advanced age of eighty-four years, near Murray, Wells County, Indiana, leaving his wife, Margaret Mabon Fulton, a childless widow to mourn her loss; Robert died at the age of seventy-eight years, in Kansas, leaving a large family; Abraham, yet living at the age of eighty years, is hale and hearty and proud to know that three of his sons were among the worthy who went to the front in the late war, one of whom gave his life for the cause of freedom, and another maimed for life at the battle of Chickamauga. David and Cochran, each near the age of seventy years, are living, the former in the State of Iowa; the latter is a prominent physician still continuing the practice of medicine in Bucyrus, Ohio. Andrew, the youngest son, died at the premature age of thirty-three years, of typhoid fever, in Bucyrus, Ohio, he being a very large and powerful man and weighing 350 pounds. John Fulton, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born near Greensburg, in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1813. He was married in 1838 to Sarah Egbert, of Fulton, Wayne County, Ohio. The young couple came to Wells County, Indiana, in the year 1840, locating in Jefferson Township, and immediately commenced the arduous task of clearing and improving a farm in what was then a howling wilderness. At the end of five years of struggling with chills and fever, the gaunt wolf of poverty and various other kinds of wolves, coupled with the many hardships incident to frontier life, they returned to Stark County, Ohio, to spend the winter and procure the needful supply of provisions and clothing. During the period of this temporary sojourn in Ohio Dr. J. C. Fulton was born, and the following spring they returned to their former home in Wells County. They soon sold this farm, however, and bought another near

the village of Eagleville, but a short distance from the former. After improving this farm for several years, a part of it was sold and he removed his family to Ossian, Indiana, and engaged in mercantile trade, which he continued for a period of four years, at the end of which time he returned to his farm near Eagleville, where he continued to live until his death in 1858, at the age of forty-five years. He died from an attack of "milk-sick," at the time a very common disease, but at present rare to both man and beast. John Fulton, at his death, left a widow and eight children to mourn the loss of a kind and indulgent husband and father. His widow followed him to the land of rest, six years later, at the age of forty-five years, after many years of suffering of tuberculosis. The couple had long been faithful and consistent members of the United Presbyterian church, he being a ruling elder in that church at Murray, Indiana. The following is a list of their children in the order of their birth and their place of residence—Milton S. Washburn, Woodford County, Illinois, engaged in the drug business; Martha A. Van Buskirk, Shenandoah, Page County, Iowa; John C. (subject of sketch); Mary E. Lawrence, Greensburg, Kiowa County, Kansas; Rachel A. Park, Blue Hill, Nebraska; Clarissa A. McCay, Akron, Ohio; George E. (subject of sketch); James C. died at the age of six years near Eagleville, Indiana, from protracted debility following an attack of chicken-pox. Dr. John Calvin Fulton was born February 22, 1845, in Stark County, Ohio. His career was uneventful and common to that of other boys until he arrived at the age of sixteen, when that long threatening cloud of Rebellion burst over the land and he, in October, 1861, responded to his country's call, enlisting in Company G, Twelfth Indiana Volunteers, and served until the ex-

piration of the time of enlistment of the regiment in May, 1862. He again enlisted in August, 1862, in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the many hard-fought battles under Rosecrans. "Pap Thomas" (as the soldiers frequently called General Thomas), and Uncle Billy Sherman's "grand march to the sea" found the subject of this sketch one of Major Steele's "mounted scouts and foragers." At the close of the war Dr. J. C. Fulton returned home, and in the spring of 1866 went to Martin, Allegan County, Michigan, and engaged in selling general merchandise and in reading medicine for some years. In 1869 and 1870 he attended lectures at the Miami Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in March of the latter year he began the practice of medicine in Murray, Indiana, where he has continued to prosecute his profession ever since. In the hope that some other boy like himself, poor in this world's goods, may take courage, he states that he had but \$9 in the wide world when he commenced to practice medicine. This straitened financial condition on the one hand was soon to be overcome by nature's ample endowment on the other, he being possessed of a vigorous constitution and a buoyant heart. When his professional services were in demand he was not slow in mounting his horse or sulky and responding, but under greater disadvantages to travel from that of to-day. Gravel roads are a modern convenience, the conception of which possibly had not gained its identity in the minds of the unborn generations to which "unknown cline" we are to-day rapidly consigning the last of the pioneers, who, in the greatness of their hearts, gave us the "corduroy" and mud-roads. Buggies at that time were a rarity, there being but two or three in the township; at the present time, seventeen

years later, almost every young man of the age of sixteen keeps his own horse and buggy. January 11, 1872, Dr. J. C. Fulton was united in marriage to Jennie B., daughter of William and Caroline (Riddle) Hanna, of Murray, Wells County, Indiana. Mrs. Dr. Fulton's parents were born in Ohio, the father in Wayne County, and the mother in Trumbull County. They were married in Wells County, Indiana, in 1845, where they continued to reside on their farm until removed by death. Mr. Hanna died April, 1873, at the age of fifty-six years; Mrs. Hanna died March, 1876, aged fifty-eight. To Dr. John C. and Jennie B. Fulton were born four daughters—Minnie U., October 9, 1872; Mabel D., March 31, 1881; Alta A., October 3, 1884; Jennie B. M., December 16, 1886. Since the commencement of the writing of this sketch, Dr. Fulton has been called to mourn the loss by death of this noble companion and these little daughters of that which time and wealth can never replace, the watchful, tender care of a loving mother. Mrs. Dr. J. C. Fulton died January 26, 1887, after a short illness of only four days duration, from acute peritonitis. In her death, society lost an ornament, but heaven gained a jewel. In connection with his practice Dr. Fulton is quite extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is an ex-president of the Wells County Medical Society, and was the delegate from Wells County to the American Medical Association which met in Chicago in the year 1887. He is the present president of the Wells County Short-Horn Breeders Association, and makes a specialty of raising and selling thoroughbred stock. His sale at his farm in 1886 of fifteen head of short-horn cattle at public auction was the first of the kind ever made in Wells County, and proved to be not only a financial success to himself but a

broad step toward the higher elevation, at least in one branch, of the art of agriculture in Wells County.

Dr. George Egbert Fulton is the seventh child of John and Sarah (Egbert) Fulton. He is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Ossian, October 8, 1855. His father and mother's death, as has previously been stated in the family history, left him an orphan at the age of eight years, thus causing him to be early thrown on his own resources. The family being broken up after the mother's death, he went to reside in Illinois with an uncle, where he remained working on the farm in the summer and attending school in the winter, until he attained the age of twelve-years. At this portion of his career he suddenly and without any special cause other than an intense longing for the friends and haunts of former days, returned to his former home in Indiana without asking leave of his friends. This journey being nearly 300 miles in distance, was to say the least venturesome for a boy of twelve to undertake, and without money to pay his railroad fare and who knew little comparatively of railroads or cities. The journey, however, was completed in two days' time, he riding part of the distance on freight cars, the rest on the rear platform of the passenger trains. The journey necessitated several important changes of roads, one being Chicago. After remaining in Indiana a short time visiting friends, he returned to Illinois and arranged with a brother-in-law to go to Iowa; the journey was made overland in emigrant wagons. Being somewhat encouraged over his former success in travel, and having an inordinate desire to see more of the world, he again set out, this time separating himself far from kinsfolk. This tour was set out upon from Hamburg, Iowa, dating perhaps nearly two years later than the one first spoken of.

Starting out on foot, he walked, in company with a trapper, to Sioux City, Iowa, a city near the line of Dakota Territory, and distant some 200 miles from the point of starting. At this time the country was new and unsettled and he was obliged to sleep out upon the open prairie at night, fortunately for him it was in the summer season. There being no habitation for miles around and with nought but damp prairie sod for his couch and the broad expanse of heaven's starry canopy for his covering, he would lie down night after night in quest of tired nature's restorative—sleep. A very limited stock of edibles, but a liberal supply of that essential beverage, water, were procured and carried in tin buckets from the towns or settlements passed through while covering the distance. Arriving at Sioux City, he secured a situation on a steamboat, there being regular packets plying between this city and Fort Benton, Montana Territory, for the purpose of carrying Government supplies to the Indians on their reservations and to the soldiers of the regular army, which were stationed at the various forts along the Missouri River, through Dakota and Montana Territories. For a couple of months in each year he followed steamboating, the remainder of the time for two consecutive years he attended school in Sioux City, being very desirous of an education, and well knowing this to be a necessary foundation to success in the future. Having rare advantages of good schools in this city, he made rapid progress, being in the high school department when he last attended this school. The several trips taken by steamboat up the Missouri, passing entirely through Dakota from south to north, and as far as Fort Peck, in Montana Territory, were indeed thrilling and picturesque; vast herds of antelope, elk and buffalo roamed at large over the waste-

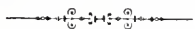


G. C. Fulton M.D.

ful tract, stretching out before the eye; again, in some places, crag and peak and dale and precipice, coupled with a personal view of various tribes of Indians, numbering in some instances thousands, and arrayed in their war paint, making the scene wild and frightful by their mneivilized demonstrations; taken as a whole these all combine to make a picture far surpassing in its effects that which the most accomplished wielder of the pen or brush could possibly portray. At that time the Indians being hostile the boats were supplied with arms by the Government for protection. In August, 1872, he went to St. Louis as an employe on the steamboat E. H. Durphey; remaining in the city a short time he secured a position on the passenger and freight steamer Glencoe, and passed down the Mississippi to New Orleans. Not satisfied with the future prospects offered in the life of a steamboatman, and thinking there might be something better in store for him, he quit the boat and cast his lot in the great city of New Orleans. After persistent effort he secured a position in the St. Charles hotel, the most commodious and famous hotel in the South. His faithfulness to the duties assigned him was rewarded by successive promotions, from that of a messenger boy until he became one of the chief clerks in the office. During his stay in New Orleans the South was visited by the yellow fever scourge, and also there occurred the "McEnery-Kellogg riots," over the gubernatorial contest. After residing in the city of New Orleans for nearly three years he left for his old home in Wells County, arriving home in June, 1875, after an absence of eleven years, and having been in ten States and two of the Territories, and being but nineteen years of age. Soon after his return he began the study of medicine with his brother, Dr. J. C. Fulton, of Murray, and after taking three courses of

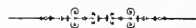
lectures at the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, he graduated at that institution in the spring of 1878. Immediately after graduation Dr. Fulton commenced the practice of medicine in Murray, where he continued in his profession in this place for four years, and in 1882 located in Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, where he still continues his chosen profession. Dr. G. E. Fulton was married September 28, 1881, to Mary, daughter of William and Mary (Kirkpatrick) Mossy, of Wells County, Indiana. Mrs. Dr. Fulton's parents were born in Ireland and immigrated to this country in their youth, in 1840. They were married in Mahoning County, Ohio, in 1844, and came to Indiana the same year, settling in the midst of a dense forest, in Rock Creek Township, Wells County. With untiring energy they toiled, clearing away the timber and cultivating the lands, and in time supplanting the log cabin and barn with substantial modern structures, until they possess one of the best tracts of improved land in Wells County. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Mossy were born six children—John K., yet living; William M. died at the age of five years; Mary, wife of Dr. G. E. Fulton; two died in infancy; Donaldson, the youngest, was killed on the Toledo & Wabash Railroad, near Defiance, Ohio, while acting in the employ of the road as brakeman; he was struck by the engine of a rapidly-moving passenger train and died in a few hours from injuries thus received. He was killed in 1880 at the age of twenty-four years. As age and failing health came on, Mr. and Mrs. Mossy retired from the farm and moved to Bluffton, where they remained until removed by death. Mr. Mossy died in 1880, at the age of sixty-two years, and Mrs. Mossy in 1884, at the age of seventy years. Mrs. Mossy was a most devoted Christian, being from childhood a

member of the Presbyterian church. She was able before the decline of old age to repeat from memory all the Psalms, and also chapter after chapter of other portions of Holy Writ. Dr. and Mrs. Fulton have two children—Anna, born December 24, 1882, and June M., born June 30, 1886. They are members of the First Presbyterian Church, of Bluffton, of which he is an elder. He is also a member of Bluffton Lodge, K. of P. Politically Dr. G. E. Fulton affiliates with the Democratic party. In 1876 he made a tour through the East, some of the more noted places visited being Niagara Falls, Washington City, Philadelphia, and the Centennial Exposition at the latter place.



WILLIAM C. ZION, of Zanesville, was born in Madison County, Indiana, February 10, 1845, son of John P. and Nancy (Crismore) Zion, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were married in Rush County, Indiana, and their children, seven in number, have all been born in this State—Jacob S., William C., George W., Thomas J. and John H.; two are deceased. Jacob married Susan Sonner; George married Rebecca Bell; Thomas J. married Mary Ellsworth; John H. married Ida Hindman, and William C. married Mary C. Wagner August 14, 1873, Rev. William Curtis, a Baptist clergyman, performing the marriage ceremony. Mrs. Zion's parents were Martin and Catherine (Welbaum) Wagner, a native of Pennsylvania, who removed from that State to Allen County in 1841. Eight children were born in that county—Rachel A., Mary B., Jacob M., Phoebe E., Rebecca I., Joseph B., Abraham L. and William D. The father was a soldier during the late war, being a member

of Company C, Seventy-fourth Indiana Infantry. He participated in the battle of Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, the siege of Atlanta, and was with Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea. He was twice wounded during the service. At the close of the war he returned home, and he and his good wife are still living in Allen County. The Zion family came to Wells County October 20, 1863, purchasing the farm where the parents now reside. The father was born in 1818, and the mother in 1823. William C. was well educated, but his life has been spent on the farm. After his marriage he settled upon the farm where he now resides, which was purchased in 1870, and had only a small clearing and no house. The next spring he erected a nice farm-house. All the improvements have been made by himself, and he now has a fine farm of 120 acres, well stocked and conveniently arranged. Their children are—Ida E., Jason C. and Franklin A. In 1884 Mr. Zion was elected township trustee by the Democratic party, and in 1886 he was re-elected. The Needmore school-house and the Zanesville school building have been erected since he has held the office, and the new iron bridge between sections 12 and 13 has been built, also two frame bridges across Flat and Davis creeks.



ASBURY DUGLAY, senior member of the law firm of Duglay & Silver, of Bluffton, is a native of Allen County, Indiana, born on a farm near Churubuseo, January 10, 1859, a son of Joseph S. and Margaret (Avis) Duglay, the father a native of France, and the mother born at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, of German parentage. Our subject was reared on the home farm in

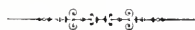
Allen County, and at the age of fifteen years his father allowed him to do for himself, when he began teaching school. He received the rudiments of an education in the district schools and at a select school at Churubusco. In 1875 he entered Fort Wayne College at Fort Wayne, Indiana, from which institution he graduated in the class of 1879, he having defrayed his college expenses by teaching in the schools of Allen, Whitley and Noble counties, Indiana, during the winter terms. In 1880 he began the study of law in the law office of Robertson & Harper at Fort Wayne, where he remained as a student one year, when he entered the law department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, and graduated in 1882. In April of that year he came to Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, and began the practice of law with J. J. Todd, under the firm name of Todd & Duglay. In April, 1885, he retired from the firm and became associated with Winfield S. Silver, when the present law firm of Duglay & Silver was formed. Mr. Duglay was married at Bluffton August 21, 1883, to Miss Julia Lusk, a daughter of Mrs. Mary Frees, of Bluffton. She was born in Wells County, Indiana, reared and educated in the schools of Bluffton, and before her marriage taught in the schools of Wells County. Mr. and Mrs. Duglay are the parents of one son, named Hugh. In politics Mr. Duglay affiliates with the Republican party. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a steward. Joseph S. Duglay, the father of our subject, immigrated to America when eighteen years of age, and first located in the State of New York. He removed to Indiana in 1840, locating in La Grange, where he was married. He remained at La Grange until 1848, when he removed to Allen County, where he worked at his trade, that of a blacksmith,

until 1868. In 1858 he purchased a farm in Allen County, in the vicinity of Churubusco, where he followed farming until his death in April, 1882, at the age of sixty-six years, he having been killed by being thrown from his buggy. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years a licensed local preacher. The mother of our subject was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She died in Allen County in February, 1878, at the age of fifty-six years. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are living and are residents of Indiana.

—•—•—•—•—•—•—

GABRIEL MARKLEY, deceased, one of the early settlers of Wells County, was born in Maryland, January 11, 1814, a son of Jonathan Markley, also a native of Maryland. When he was three years old his parents removed to Pennsylvania, thence to Madison County, Ohio, where he resided upon his father's farm until 1836. During that year he was married to Miss Hannah, daughter of Solomon Tuttle, who was born in Athens County, Ohio, March 30, 1818. One year after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Markley immigrated to Wells County, this State, which was then a dense wilderness. Here he entered seventy-two acres of land from the Government on section 18, Harrison Township, on the Wabash River. There were then only four white families in that part of the county. He erected a cabin and began to clear and improve a farm. By industry and good management, he added to his original purchase from time to time, until he owned a landed estate of eleven hundred acres, most of which was in a state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Markley passed through all the usual hardships of pioneer life. When

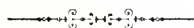
he first arrived here his property consisted of a horse and a cow; the latter died soon after reaching here. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom eight survive—Jonathan, Nancy A., wife of Daniel Shoemaker, John W., Henry C., Oliver P., Mary A., now the wife of William A. Markley, Isabel, now Mrs. William Prelliman, and Daniel F. Both parents were active members of the Christian church. Mr. Markley died June 12, 1873, and his wife, March 30, 1883.



THOMAS W. QUACKENBUSH, of Ossian, was born in Amsterdam, Montgomery County, New York, June 11, 1817, a son of William W. and Mary (Allen) Quackenbush, who were the parents of eight children, of whom Thomas W. was the eldest. The family removed to Orleans County, thence to Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1837. In that county, June 18, our subject was married to Phoebe Hudson, daughter of William H. Hudson. Eight years later, and after the birth of four children and the death of two, Thomas, with his family, consisting of wife and two children, Mary J. and Rachel, came to Wells County in company with Joseph Gorrell, John Glass and James Barkley. All made a location in this county September 18, 1845. John Glass married Margaret Hatfield. The ground was covered with snow before Mr. Quackenbush had his cabin ready for occupancy. The family moved in before the doors were made. Blankets shut out the biting wind, but could not drown the mournful howl of the hungry wolves that prowled about the forests, yet feared to make an attack upon either man or beast. Mr. Quackenbush purchased sixty acres of land of James Glass, on credit, and

began its improvement without money, and no aid except his strong arm and trusty ax. After clearing twenty acres he sold the sixty-acre tract and entered eighty acres upon the reserve, which he had earned enough money to pay for. Another log cabin was built, and Thomas made a second beginning in the way of starting a home in Wells County. This time there was a double incentive, for his land was paid for, and he had a patent from the Government, bearing the signature of President Zachary Taylor. Day by day the stroke of the pioneer's ax was heard until he had a score of acres cleared. Later, he exchanged this land for an interest in a saw-mill in Van Wert County, Ohio, but after remaining there two years, sold out and returned to Wells County, where he purchased another tract of land. Other purchases were made and exchanges followed, until Mr. Quackenbush found himself a resident of Milford, Kosciusko County, where he remained in business five years to a day. His property was then disposed of and he returned to this county, where a permanent location was made at Ossian, in 1880. The same month he purchased a stock of groceries, and for two years conducted a bakery, confectionery and grocery store. His new store building was completed in 1882, since which time his goods have occupied the new store. Mr. and Mrs. Quackenbush have had eight children, five of whom are deceased—Mary J. is the wife of Joseph Harry; Rachel married George Cox; Emeline became the wife of John Mossy, and Clark married Mary M. Green. He has fifteen grandchildren. Mrs. Quackenbush died in September, 1864. For a second wife, our subject married Mrs. Mary A. Ormsby, of this county, whose husband, Joseph Ormsby, was a brother to the present county clerk, J. H. Ormsby. One child was born to this union, which died in

infancy. Mr. Quackenbush served as constable fourteen years. He commenced life with no fortune except a strong arm and a wealth of muscle, but by energy, frugality and honesty has secured a competency for his old age, besides rearing and educating his large family of children.



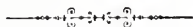
BRANSON WEAVER, residing on section 30, Lancaster Township, was born in Wayne County, Indiana, October 15, 1837, a son of Lewis and Mary (Howell) Weaver. He was reared to agricultural pursuits and has made farming and teaching the avocation of his life. He was united in marriage April 2, 1863, to Catharine Miller, who was born September 9, 1842, the youngest daughter of the pioneer Henry Miller. Five children have been born to this union—Lizzie M., born December 30, 1863, married James W. Quick, and they are now living on the old Weaver homestead; John, living with his parents, was born June 3, 1866; William was born August 12, 1870, and died February 13, 1874; Hattie M., born June 11, 1873, and Mand, born February 23, 1881. Mr. Weaver settled on his present farm shortly after his marriage, and since that time has made almost all the improvements. He has been prosperous in his farming operations, and by his good management has accumulated 350 acres of land, the homestead consisting of seventy-five acres. His land when he purchased it was partly covered with timber. He has on his land over six miles of tile drainage, and all the improvements are first-class, with good buildings for his stock and grain, the entire surroundings of his place proving him to be a thorough practical farmer, he having the largest herd of recorded short-horns in the county. Mr. Weaver en-

listed in the defense of his country in the early part of the war, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, a member of Company G, Twelfth Indiana Infantry. After serving seven months he was honorably discharged in May, 1862. He again enlisted in October, 1864, in Company B, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, serving in the Seventeenth Corps, which he joined at Chattanooga. His corps marched with Sherman to the sea, and Mr. Weaver was in line at the grand review of Sherman's army at Washington City. He was discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, July 21, 1865, when he returned to his home in Lancaster Township. In politics Mr. Weaver affiliates with the Republican party, but in this as well as religion and in all things he is a liberal minded intelligent citizen. He has been one of the most active men in Lancaster township in pushing forward public improvements, and the fine graveled turnpike from Bluffton to Murray was built largely through his efforts and personal influence. His father, Lewis Weaver, was born in Franklin County, Virginia, in 1809, and was reared to manhood in his native State. When twenty-three years of age he in company with his brother David came to Indiana and made his home in the then wilderness of Wayne County. He was married in that county to Miss Mary Howell, who died in 1843, leaving three children—Branson, our subject; Elizabeth, married to George Lindsey, by whom she had three children, Mary, Clara and Lewis W., and died in Lancaster Township, October 22, 1874; John R., the youngest, was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, enlisting in August, 1862, in Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry and died while in the service of his country. The father was married the second time to Miss Nancy Galyean, and to this union were born two children—Thomas, who



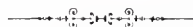
G. F. Melshemmer

odist Episcopal church at Muncie. In 1878 he bought out the *Bluffton Chronicle*, and has ever since been its editor and proprietor. He has greatly enlarged and improved it and widely increased its circulation, so that it is now equal, if not superior, to any paper in the county in its circulation and general influence. It might be called the organ of the Republican party, as its aim is to defend that party, as being the saviour of the country, and devoted to its redemption from Democratic misrule. On January 13, 1880, Mr. Arnold was appointed, by President Hayes, postmaster of Bluffton, which position he held over four years, retaining a nominal control over the *Chronicle*, which during that time was edited by his son Charles, who has been connected with the paper for some nine years. Mr. Arnold is a public-spirited man, always working for the good of the city and county; is a man of high integrity and fair ability, intelligent, courteous, amiable and of pleasing manners and fine personal presence.



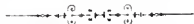
DR. C. T. MELSHEIMER, a practicing physician of Bluffton, Wells County, with whose interests he has been prominently identified since the spring of 1844, was born in Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania, the date of his birth being September 29, 1819. In his youth he received excellent educational advantages, attending school at Gettysburg and Ashland, Ohio, and the Chicago Medical College. He was united in marriage March 29, 1845, to Miss Susan Ann Dwire, a daughter of Rev. William Dwire, of the Methodist Episcopal church of Ashland, Ohio. To this union were born six children, five sons and one daughter, of whom two sons and the daughter survived the death of the mother, which

occurred August 3, 1878. Dr. Melsheimer was again united in marriage, to Mrs. Martha Cartwright, his present wife, December 9, 1880. As before stated, the doctor settled at Bluffton in the spring of 1844, and since that time has been actively engaged in the practice of his chosen profession, building up a large and lucrative practice. In practice he is not only progressive, but strictly conservative. In August, 1862, Dr. Melsheimer was commissioned by Governor O. P. Morton, of Indiana, First Assistant Surgeon of the One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, which position he filled until failing health compelled him to resign. In July, 1885, he received the appointment as a member of the Board of Pension Examiners for the Eleventh Congressional District of the State of Indiana. In politics the doctor affiliates with the Republican party. In religion he is a firm believer in the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and in the final salvation of every son and daughter of Adam. In 1850 Dr. Melsheimer united with the Odd Fellows order at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and was a member of Harmony Lodge until October 6, 1852, when he united with the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 114, of Bluffton, in which lodge he still retains his membership.



PHANUEL McINTIRE, an enterprising agriculturist of Jackson Township, engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 34, was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, April 1, 1855, a son of Dick and Mary McIntire. He was reared in his native county, his youth being spent in assisting his father on the farm and in attending the common schools. He made his home with his parents until his marriage,

which occurred March 1, 1879. His wife's maiden name was Olive C. Kilander, who was also a native of Jackson Township, Wells County, her parents, Perry and Sarah J. (Martin) Kilander, being yet residents of Jackson Township. When Mr. McIntire was married his father gave him 200 acres of land, and he and his wife began housekeeping in a one-roomed log cabin which stood on part of this land. Since then he has cleared about sixty-five acres, and has now 120 acres cleared and improved, he having put about 1,000 rods of tiling on his land. He built a fine, substantial barn in 1881, and in 1883 erected his present handsome residence at a cost of about \$3,000. Mr. McIntire is a young man of public spirit, and has done much toward the progress and advancement of Jackson Township since starting out in life for himself, and is well respected by all who know him.

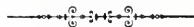


ABRAHAM J. CLARK, of Ossian, was born in Greencastle, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1818. His father, Walter B. Clark, was born in Frederick, Maryland, and his mother, Margaret (De Groff) Clark, was a native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. They were married in Pennsylvania, and settled in Greencastle in 1811. Six children were born in that State. The names of the children are—John B., Amelia, Abraham J., Jeremiah, Catherine and Washington. In 1833 the family came to Wayne County, Ohio, and settled near Doylestown. A location was made in Medina County in 1841, and the eleven years spent in that county was the severest struggle for existence the family ever experienced. Abraham and his brother Jeremiah bought 100 acres of land, divided it equally, and began the problem of carving out their destinies. Rough

fare, rougher clothing and innumerable hardships daunted them not, but years of toil brought a fitting reward. Five years later Abraham sold his land, purchased 100 acres, and made another beginning. A small clearing had been made and a small cabin was built. Having claims upon 200 acres, and having built three good log houses, in 1852 he decided to sell and emigrate to Indiana. The change was made, and his ready cash purchased a nice tract of land. During the winter of 1852 the death of the mother occurred, and after the children came to this county the father also removed here, and died February 22, 1860. Three of the brothers are living; Washington resides in Wisconsin, and Jeremiah and Abraham in Ossian. The marriage of the latter to Catherine Rasor, in Medina County, Ohio, occurred November 6, 1841, George Miller, Esq., performing the ceremony. The Rasors were natives of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and were the first couple married in Wadsworth Township, Medina County, Ohio. They reared a large family of children, and remained in that county during their lifetime, their last days being spent in the village of Wadsworth. In November, 1852, our subject with his wife and children came to Wells County, locating in the woods of Jefferson Township. He purchased 240 acres of choice timber land on which not a stroke of the ax had been made. The first log house was built in the spring of 1853, into which the family moved in the spring of that year; it is still standing. The eldest son, George, just developing into manhood, died June 3, 1864, and although only nineteen years of age, he was accepted by the Government and enlisted in defense of his country's flag, becoming a member of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Infantry. The pride of his father and joy of his mother went forth

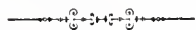
to do battle, but disease cut short his youthful vigor, and he died at Nashville, Tennessee, in less than a year from the time of his enlistment. His remains repose in the cemetery at Ossian. James, the third child, is the only one of the four children that is living. He resides on a part of the old homestead first purchased by the father in Indiana. He became the husband of Eliza Baughman March 3, 1870, and they are the parents of three children—William J., Charles E. and Mary E. The two daughters reached maturity. The eldest, Margaret, became the wife of John H. Ferguson April 26, 1866. They had three children—Jennie E., Albert B. and Marion J. John Ferguson was also a hero of the late war, being a member of the Eighty-eighth Indiana Infantry. His wife died in the spring of 1885. Mary J., the fourth child, married Lewis Caston in September, 1875. She also had three children—Judson B., Maggie M. and James J. The death of Mrs. Caston occurred August 20, 1882. In that year Mr. Clark erected a neat cottage in Ossian, where they have since resided. These pioneers, who have braved the summers' sun and the storms of many winters, have gained a competence; and yet they find consolation in the joy of the love and companionship of each other and their numerous grandchildren, in the veins of whom flows the blood of an ancestry which has never been sullied with dishonor. This sketch gives a brief history of one of Ossian's best families. Walter B. Clark, the father of our subject, was a soldier of the war of 1812, under the command of Major Wood. He was present at the battle of Baltimore, and passed through the remainder of that campaign. The history of Walter Clark was that which usually follows upon one used to an agricultural calling, although in earlier years he was a mechanic and worked at his

trade in the manufacture of saddle-trees. Of the De Groff family but little can be learned. Walter's wife was the daughter of a gentleman who was a native of Poland, but his relatives do not remember his name. One of his sons, Abraham De Groff, was for many years proprietor of an inn near Baltimore, Maryland.



ROBERT ROBINSON, of Banner, was born in Belmont County, Ohio, in 1825, son of William and Mary (Boyd) Robinson. The father was born near Glasgow, Scotland, and was a son of Robert and Mary (Lyons) Robinson, also natives of Scotland. In 1776 the family emigrated to County Tyrone, Ireland, and after the close of the war of the Revolution came to America and settled in Belmont County, Ohio. They had three children—William, Elizabeth, who married Robinson Lindsey, and Hannah, wife of James Griffin. Mary Boyd was born in America and of Irish ancestry. Her parents were Benjamin and Martha (Watson) Boyd, and their children were—William, Andrew, Thomas, Benjamin, Martha, Mary and Jane. The parents of our subject were married about 1821 and had six children—Eleanor, wife of George Jennings; Robert, who married Eve Myers October 23, 1848; Benjamin, who died unmarried; Joshua and Joseph, twins, also died unmarried; and Matilda J., who became the wife of Samuel McDonald. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson after their marriage removed to Louisa County, Iowa, where Mr. Robinson purchased a farm. Three years later they returned to Ohio, settling in Franklin County, where they remained until the close of the war. Mr. Robinson was a contractor for Government supplies during that eventful period. In 1865 he sold his farm

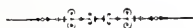
in Ohio and came to Wells County, where he purchased 140 acres of land in Union Township, fifteen acres being cleared. A small log cabin stood upon the site of his present home, into which the family moved. Their children are—Benjamin, George, Franklin, Leonard, Edward, Mary and Seymour. Their youngest son, Seymour, was born in that house in 1868, and is the only unmarried child in the family. Benjamin married Sarah Kain, George married Barbara Halvy, Frank married Matilda Nicholson, Edward married Alice Raver, Mary is the wife of Joseph Hoopengartner, and Leonard married Lizzie Hattfield and resides in Elk County, Kansas. Their present house was built in 1870. Mr. Robinson has been generally successful in his business affairs; his fine farm is under excellent cultivation except twenty acres. All the children have been fairly educated. George was a teacher for several years previous to his marriage. Seymour remains on the farm, and will undoubtedly succeed his father in its management. Mr. Robinson cast his first presidential vote for Lewis Cass, and from that time he has been an adherent to the Democratic faith.



THOMAS E. SCOTT, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born near Zanesfield, Logan County, Ohio, February 21, 1840, son of Stanton and Esther E. (Edmondson) Scott, of Scotch-English ancestry. His father was reared in North Carolina, his parents afterward removing to Jefferson County, Ohio, thence to Belmont County, thence to Logan County, where the parents died. Stanton was married in Clarke County to Miss Esther Edmondson, who was born in York County, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Thomas and Elizabeth (Morsel) Ed-

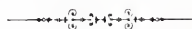
mondson, of English-Irish ancestry. When she was eight years of age her parents removed to Fredericks County, Maryland, where she lived until her twenty-third year. The family then moved to Clinton County, Ohio, thence to Clarke County, where she was married in the Friends' meeting house of Green Plain, September 21, 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Scott first located in Champlain County, then in Logan County, and in November, 1841, they removed to Jay County, Indiana, where Mrs. Scott's parents had preceded them in 1837; both died in Jay County. Mr. Scott had entered eighty acres of land in Wells County in 1838, and in 1845 moved to his new home in Nottingham Township. They occupied the primitive log cabin, and their nearest neighbor was a mile and a half away. Deer and wild turkeys were abundant, and often the "fretted porcupine" had to be driven away from their door. They traded a cow and calf for \$8 worth of chairs, and then traded the chairs for the making of rails. The postoffice was at Camden, and they had to pay 18 cents for a letter. They had seven children, of whom two, Mary and Rebecca, are deceased; the former died February 4, 1860, and the latter September 10, 1862. Those living are—Thomas E., Nathan M., Elizabeth, wife of Benjamin L. Dewees, Joshua and Eliza Jane. The father died August 24, 1855, and is buried in the McDaniel cemetery, Nottingham Township, beside his deceased children. He was a consistent member of the Society of Friends, as is also Mrs. Scott. Our subject, Thomas E. Scott, the oldest living child, was but five years old when his parents came to this county, and he was reared amid all the scenes of pioneer life. He was married October 25, 1863, to Miss Amanda E. Chandler, of English ancestry. Her father was from Massachusetts and her mother from Connecticut. The

father died in Randolph County, Indiana, in 1840, and her mother is living at Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have had three children, of whom one, Geneva May, died August 8, 1884. Those living are—Stanton Arthur, who resides at Long Prairie, Minnesota, and Clarence O. Mr. Scott belongs to the Society of Friends, and is a Republican in politics. Mrs. Scott is a member of the Baptist denomination. Stanton Scott was an Old-Line Whig and an Abolitionist. He was a cousin to E. M. Stanton, who was Secretary of War. Thomas E. took the census of Nottingham Township in 1880. In 1882 he was nominated for county commissioner, but declined the proffered honor. He was a delegate to and attended the Republican State Convention in 1886.



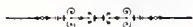
MINOS WINFIELD LEE, junior member of the law firm of France & Lee, of Bluffton, was born November 17, 1853, in Wayne County, Indiana, but was reared in Randolph County. He remained on the home farm until eighteen years of age, and up to that time had attended the district schools of his neighborhood. At the age of eighteen years he entered the high school at Winchester, Randolph County, from which he graduated in the class of 1873. In 1874 he attended the Lebanon College, at Lebanon, Ohio, and during 1875 and '76 he attended the Normal School at Winchester, and during this time read law in the evenings, under General Thomas M. Brown and John E. Neff, of Winchester. Mr. Lee was married near Huntsville, in Randolph County, May 22, 1876, to Miss Phoebe E. Gaddis, a daughter of Elisha P. and Lydia E. (Macy) Gaddis. Of the three children born to this union only

one is living, named Rosece H. Lena A. died in infancy August 27, 1879, and Arthur E. died September 16, 1882, aged over two years. Mr. Lee was admitted to the bar at Muncie, Indiana, in 1880, where he practiced law until 1881. He then came to Bluffton and was engaged in the practice of his chosen profession alone until 1884, when he formed a partnership with C. M. France, with whom he has since been associated under the firm name of France & Lee. In politics Mr. Lee was formerly a Greenbacker, but in 1885, seeing the inevitable dissolution of that party, he became a Democrat. In 1878 he was a candidate for Congress as the nominee of the Greenback party for the Sixth District, receiving the largest vote on the Greenback ticket. In 1882 he was nominated on the same ticket for Attorney-General for the State of Indiana, receiving a very complimentary vote. In 1884 he was again the nominee of the Greenback party for Congressman for the Eleventh District, which he declined to accept. Mr. Lee is a member of Muncie Lodge, No. 137, K. of P., of Muncie. In her religious faith Mrs. Lee is a Universalist, and belongs to the church of that denomination at Bluffton.



JOHN H. CRUM, Esq., of Banner City, was born near Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, January 14, 1848, son of Samuel and Mary (Brehm) Crum, also natives of Pennsylvania. John H. was an only child, and when his mother died he was but two and a half years of age. For his second wife Samuel married Elizabeth Shupe, and in 1863 the family came to Wells County, locating in Rock Creek Township, where the father still resides. After coming to Indiana Mr. Crum was again married, his

third wife being Elmina Swartz, whose parents were natives of Pennsylvania, in which State she also was born. They have had four children, three of whom are living—Eli, Emanuel and David. John was fourteen years of age when he came to this county. He has been educated here, and for several years has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, although he taught school for some time previous to his marriage. This event occurred in April, 1870, Miss Alice Gardenour becoming his wife. After marriage they came to the farm which was purchased by Mr. Crum in 1869, upon a portion of which the new town of Banner is located, and along which the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad passes. In 1884 Mr. Crum built his fine farm house, adjacent to the village of Banner. They have six children—Franklin, Charles, Delbert, Effie, Attie and Iva. In 1882 Mr. Crum was elected justice of the peace of his township, and re-elected in 1886. Mrs. Crum died January 9, 1887, and her remains were interred in St. John's cemetery, Union Township. For several months Mr. Crum has been engaged in the insurance business, which, with the duties of his office, keeps him busily employed.



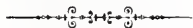
LEMUEL BACHELOR, farmer, living one mile south of Bluffton, was born in Ashtabula County, Ohio, September 23, 1820, the eldest son of Bazil and Naney (Jefferson) Bachelor, who had a family of seven children—Lemuel, Ira, Bazil, Alonzo, Rhoda, Lucy and Almira, all living except Ira and Almira. Of those living Bazil, Alonzo and Rhoda reside in Union County, and Lucy in Franklin County, Ohio. The father was a native of Massachusetts, born

March 15, 1793, a son of Lemuel Bachelor, who was of English ancestry, and died March 12, 1869, in Wells County, Indiana. The mother was born November 21, 1795, in Rutland County, Vermont, and died March 24, 1883. She was a daughter of Jeremiah Jefferson, who was a second cousin of President Thomas Jefferson and of English descent. The parents were married in New York and moved to Ashtabula County, Ohio, November 7, 1819, where the father followed milling and farming for many years. Mr. Bachelor, the subject of this sketch, passed his early youth in assisting his father on the farm and in attending the subscription schools. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which occurred March 4, 1843, with Miss Louisa J. Richardson, of Cayuga County, New York, a daughter of Richard Richardson, who came to Ohio when Mrs. Bachelor was a child. Our subject followed farming in Ashtabula, his native County, until 1854, when he moved to Wells County, having purchased a farm in Jackson Township the year before he settled on it, and cleared and improved the farm until it was among the best in the township. He remained on this farm until he was elected county treasurer in 1874, when he left the farm and moved to Bluffton to assume the duties of his office, and at the expiration of his term in 1876 was re-elected and filled the office to the entire satisfaction of the people, no man ever having been more faithful to his trust. After the expiration of the four years in office he retired to his farm south of Bluffton, where he and his estimable wife are enjoying the accumulations of many years of hard labor. They have had seven children, six of whom are living—Morris, Willie, Andrew (deceased), Edwin, Mary, wife of E. A. Smith, Cassie, wife of Elias Davis, and Etta, wife of Benjamin Mendenhall. Mr.



Lemuel Bachelon

and Mrs. Bachelor are both members of the Baptist church, and politically he affiliates with the Democratic party, being true to his Jeffersonian ancestry. In 1865 the parents of Mr. Bachelor came to Wells County to live with him, where the father passed the remainder of his days; the mother afterward returned to Ohio and died at the home of her daughter Rhoda. In addition to serving as treasurer of his county two terms he was justice of the peace for twelve years and township trustee two years of Jackson Township. Mr. Bachelor's enterprise and forethought has always been a marked characteristic of his life. A notable incident was his vote in 1872 to aid the Toledo, Thorntown & St. Louis Railroad, when the question was submitted to a vote of the county, he being the only man in his township who had the courage to stand alone and vote his convictions, believing then as now that the general good of the people should be the object in all public questions, and now those who were opposed to the measure admit the wisdom of his course, as the result of the agitation of that enterprise finally resulted in the construction of the present Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad.



ABRAHAM W. JOHNSON, of Harrison Township, was born in the township of Darlington, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1814, son of Robert and Susan (Bradfield) Johnson. The father was a son of Abraham Johnson, of Scotch and Irish ancestry; his wife was formerly Rachel McCammon, a native of Ireland and of Scotch descent. The mother of our subject was a daughter of Edward Bradfield, who was born in Wales, and immigrated to this country

when twenty years of age, settling in Philadelphia, where he followed shoemaking. He married Mary Booth, of Norfolk, Virginia, and of English ancestry. Robert Johnson was born and reared in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He removed to Beaver County, where he learned the shoemaker's trade with Edward Bradfield, and married his daughter in New Lisbon, Ohio. He worked at his trade in Beaver County until 1847, when he came to this county to make his home, and died at the advanced age of eighty-five years. His wife died ten years previous, at the age of seventy-five years. Our subject was reared on a farm, receiving a limited education in the subscription schools of the early day. He remained with his parents until he reached his majority, and September 24, 1837, entered 160 acres of land in Harrison Township. He then went to Huntington County, remaining one year, then returned to Wells County and began to clear and improve his farm. There were but few settlers on the Wabash River at that time. He was married May 7, 1840, to Miss Jane S., daughter of Daniel and Sarah Henderson, who was born in Fayette County, Ohio. Her parents removed from Virginia to Ohio in an early day. She came to this county in 1839. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had ten children, all of whom are living—Isaac N., Rebecca J., Catherine E., Harriet A., Mary M., Louis M., John W., Maggie B., Walter B. and Roscoe C. Isaac N. was wounded while serving his country during the late war, which disabled him for life. In 1840 he sold his farm and removed to Bluffton, where he lived ten years, then purchased his present farm in Harrison Township, which contains 110 acres of land, situated one mile west of Bluffton. Mr. Johnson has served as constable and as deputy sheriff for many years. In 1850 he

was appointed appraiser of real estate. He and his wife are active members of the Baptist church, and he is a Republican in politics.

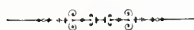
MRS. CATHERINE MILLER, the first white woman who settled in Wells County, was born in Wythe County, Virginia, June 10, 1801. November 10, 1832, she and her husband, Henry Miller, settled on the farm where they lived until her death. From the time of her arrival here until the 4th of June following she saw but one white woman. Mr. and Mrs. Miller lived fifty-four years without a death occurring in their house; then, August 1, 1877, she died. At that time all her ten children were living except the youngest son, who died in Andersonville prison.

LEANDER E. MADDUX, M. D., of Keystone, was born in Chester Township, this county, May 11, 1851, son of Wesley H. and Eliza Ann (Grove) Maddox. His father was born in Highland County, Ohio, of English descent, and his mother was born in Fairfield County, same State, her parents being early settlers in that county. Both came to Indiana with their parents when young, the parents of the father settling in Harrison Township, Blackford County, and those of the mother, in Harrison Township, Wells County. Both families found their land covered with a heavy growth of timber, and both started to make clearings and erect necessary buildings. Wesley H. bought land in Chester Township, section 36, about 1845 or 1846, and in 1849 he was married. He is still a resident of the township, but his wife died May 9, 1874. Leander

E. was reared in Chester Township, and has always made that township his home with the exception of six years' residence in Newville. He commenced his education in the common school at the Maddux school-house, section 36, Chester Township, and at the age of fifteen years commenced attending the school of Professor J. S. McCleary, where he studied three or four terms. He then went to Liber College, Jay County, and attended there two years. In 1871 he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Doster, of Poneto, and attended the medical department of the Michigan State University, at Ann Arbor, 1873-'74-'75, graduating the last Wednesday of March, 1875. He then went to Vera Cruz and commenced the practice of his profession. In 1881 he settled in Keystone, where he has since practiced, and he is the only physician in Chester Township. He was married August 20, 1871, to Miss Mary E. Newman, a native of Huntington County, this State, and daughter of John and Lydia Newman. They have two children—Myrtie and Katie. Politically the doctor is a Republican. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 142, A. F. & A. M. His mother was the first school-teacher in Chester Township, and the first lady teacher in Wells County.

ADNAI HALL, one of the earliest and most prominent settlers of Wells County, was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, December 13, 1809. His early life was spent in the Eastern and Southern States, being for several years in the employ of an Eastern clock manufactory. July 27, 1836, he married Miss Abigail Blatchley, moved the same year to Ohio, and in May, 1837, to Wells County, where he passed the remain-

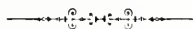
der of his life. He was the first treasurer of this county, and continued in that office twelve years. Discharging the duties of that position in pioneer times, he made his return to Indianapolis on horseback, having often to swim the streams, and generally requiring a week or ten days to make the trip. His oxen were sometimes employed by the neighbors in taking their grists through woods and marshes all the way to Greenville, Ohio, a distance of about fifty miles, to be ground. That was then the nearest mill to this county. The same oxen drew the logs for the building on the site of Bluffton—the tavern kept by Almon Case. Mr. Hall was generally occupied upon his farm, and was for a time engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was a social, genial man, and in almost any company he was the “noblest Roman of them all.” He died February 28, 1872, leaving a wife and two children. The widow still survives, residing in Bluffton, a venerable landmark of early days, and now in her seventy-eighth year. The children are—Rena, the wife of John Bayha, a real estate broker in Kansas City, Missouri, and Adnah, a resident of Bluffton.



WILLIAM CRAIG, of Ossian, was born in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, near Glasgow, Scotland, February 11, 1824, a son of William and Jennette (Robinson) Craig, who immigrated to America in 1828, and settled at Troy, New York, where they remained four years, then removed to London, Ontario, in 1832. The Craigs made a permanent location in this township July 12, 1838, where the parents remained until death. Their three eldest children that still survive are residents of this county. Mr. Craig well remembers the first train of cars

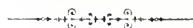
that ever passed over a line of road in Michigan. The date was July 4, 1838. The train left Detroit and stopped at Ypsilanti, that being the terminus of what is now the Michigan Central. The farm upon which the Craig family settled is now owned by Warren Mills. The father erected the second log cabin in Jefferson Township in the autumn of 1837. Robert Craig, a brother of our subject, came with his wife the same year, and the brothers entered adjoining tracts. The cabin of Robert being first completed for occupancy, made his the first actual settlement in the township. He removed with his family to Illinois a few years later. The father was the first naturalized citizen of Jefferson Township, and was one of the best known men in the county. His death occurred in 1863, and his wife survived him eight years. They were the parents of five children—William, Jennette, Lucy (deceased), Robert (deceased), and David. Jennette is the widow of Dr. William Johnston; David is a farmer, married Miss Eliza Salter, and they reside near Ossian; they have one daughter—Maggie, wife of Harry Deam, of Bluffton, whose grandfather, John Deam, was one of the first settlers of the county. Our subject married Margaret, daughter of Robert and Mary A. (Stont) McConnell, natives of New Jersey, in which State Mrs. Craig was born October 4, 1827. Their marriage occurred April 11, 1850, at the home of the bride's parents, in Jefferson Township. The young couple began domestic life upon a farm, and have followed that occupation to some extent. Mr. Craig has also been a merchant of Ossian, but now lives a retired life in the village of Ossian, having sufficient means to render him independent. They have four children—Robert J., who has attained the age of twenty-one; Walter M., who married Anna Hatfield; Frank M. and Jennie. The latter is a graduate of the Os-

sian High School, and is now a teacher in the primary department of that school. The first election held in the township was at the house of William Craig. Samuel Saul Weston was elected justice of the peace, and J. R. Zepever, township clerk. Robert Burns, the poet, was a near neighbor of Mr. Craig's grandparents, and Mr. Craig was born in the same neighborhood, and was familiar with the country which formed the topics of his famous poems.



JOHAN SHOEMAKER, farmer, section 5, Harrison Township, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 22, 1819, son of William and Betsey (Welker) Shoemaker, the former a native of Maryland and a son of John Shoemaker, who was born in England, and the latter a daughter of John Welker, who was born in Pennsylvania of German ancestry. When our subject was a child his mother died, and he went to live with his grandparents, with whom he resided until he was nineteen years of age. He then went to learn the blacksmith's trade, and received \$2.50 per month for his time for two years. He then worked as journeyman for one year, after which he engaged in business for himself at Frederick, Mahoning County, Ohio; and followed his trade successfully for twelve years. In 1854 he came to Wells County and worked at his trade in Bluffton. He remained there until 1864, when he moved to his present farm of 200 acres of unimproved land on sections 5 and 8, Harrison Township. He now has one of the best improved farms in the county. His residence and farm buildings are large and commodious. In 1868 the first tile factory in the county was started on his farm, which was operated until 1884, manufacturing large

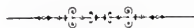
quantities from which Wells and adjoining counties received their supply for several years. Mr. Shoemaker was married March 17, 1842, to Miss Rachel, daughter of John and Catherine (Kline) Johnson, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of English, and the latter of German ancestry. Mrs. Shoemaker was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, April 8, 1825, and removed with her parents to Ohio when ten years of age. In 1864 Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker settled upon their farm, and by hard labor and good management have acquired a large property. They have had ten children, eight of whom are living—Warren K., Bruce W., John J., Taylor F., Jane, Harriet, Ella Lizzie. Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker are members of the Christian church, and politically Mr. Shoemaker is a Republican.



NATHAN CORY, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Henry County, Indiana, November 11, 1831, son of Daniel and Mary (Howard) Cory, the former a native of Ross County, Ohio, and the latter of Virginia. Joseph Cory was born in Wales, and at an early day came to America and located in Kentucky. Afterward removed to Ohio, where he reared his family and died at an advanced age. His son, Nathan Cory, was born June 24, 1776, and married Sarah Wright. Both died near Frankfort, Ross County, Ohio. They had a family of twelve children, of whom Daniel was the eleventh. Daniel Cory was married to Mary Howard in Ross County, and about 1825 they removed to Henry County, Indiana, being early settlers of that county. The father died there in 1873, and the mother in August, 1872. Nathan was reared to farm life in his native county, and was married

there, August 14, 1851, to Miss Elizabeth Hoover, a native of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, and daughter of George P. and Barbara Hoover. Her father was born in Bedford County, and her mother in Huntington County, same State. They removed to Henry County, Indiana, in 1841, where her father died June 21, 1879, and her mother, June 25, 1878; the former was born June 29, 1810, and the latter, September 1, 1811. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cory remained in Henry County until 1855, when they decided to remove to Kansas. Taking with them what household effects were necessary, they started with wagon and team, camping out at night, and after a journey of four weeks, reached Jefferson County, Kansas. The next season they removed to Lyon County, where Mr. Cory had taken up 160 acres of land. This was all wild prairie and the country was new. Indians were far more plenty than stock, and the nearest neighbor was four miles distant. It was 110 miles to a mill, and consequently very little milling was done. Mr. Cory purchased eighty acres of timber, and remained on his land during the exciting scenes of 1856-57, known as the Kansas and Missouri trouble. Then the civil war broke out, with all its horrors, and February 14, 1864, while the family was absent from home, the house was burned and nearly all its contents were consumed by the flames. It was supposed to have been the work of Indians. In 1865 he exchanged his farm for the one he now occupies in Nottingham Township, and returned to Henry County. Four years later he came to this county, where he has since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Cory have had nine children, of whom one, Elva L., is deceased. Those living are—John Milton, who resides in Lane County, Kansas; Mary Samantha, who married George Kirkwood; Joseph Henry, now a

resident of Jay County; Barbara Leanna, wife of Amos McDaniel, residing in Nottingham Township; Elsie Jane, who married William Barnes and resides in Jay County; Elza N., Susie E., and Michael Sylvester. Mrs. Cory is a member of the German Baptist church. In politics Mr. Cory is a Democrat, and has served his township in various capacities. During the time of General Price's raid, Mr. Cory was called out for thirty days service, and with about 30,000 men from Kansas, they met Price at Mound City, and took 500 prisoners in a corn-field. When he returned home he was again called out to protect the settlement from the Indians, who had broken in during their absence and had killed fourteen men, women and children, and was out about one week.



WILLIAM THOMAS TOY SWAIM is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born near Ossian, April 1, 1861, a son of William and Hannah (Toy) Swaim. They were the parents of five children, four sons and one daughter, our subject being the youngest. The father was killed at the battle of Champion Hills, Mississippi, May 16, 1863, while serving as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. The subject of this sketch was reared at Ossian, where he attended the graded school, completing his education at Fort Wayne College, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was then in the fall of 1881 engaged to teach in the graded school at Bluffton, and taught one school year. In the fall of 1882 he entered the law department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and graduated from that institution in the class of 1884 with the degree of B. L. He then returned to Bluffton and became associated with his

brother David in the practice of law, thus forming the present law firm of Swaim & Swaim. In politics Mr. Swaim casts his suffrage with the Republican party. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bluffton, and a highly respected citizen of Wells County.

THOMAS LITTLE WISNER, a prominent and influential citizen of Wells County, is a native of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, born near Hughsville, December 20, 1816. In his eighth year he was taken by his parents to Wayne County, Ohio, they settling on a farm near Wooster. His father being a carpenter, he was reared to that trade, at which he worked until 1847. He was married May 4, 1841, to Mary M. Sharp, who is of Irish ancestry, and was born and reared on the same farm in Wayne County, Ohio, where she lived till her marriage. Of the six children born to this union only two are living—Horace L., foreman in the *Banner* printing office at Bluffton, and Arline, wife of Hon. J. H. C. Smith, State Senator and attorney at law at Bluffton. Helen died in 1846, aged over two years; Albert Howard died at the age of fourteen months; Ella died aged eight years, and James S. died in September, 1870, in his twenty-ninth year. In 1847 Mr. Wisner came to Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, where he was engaged in contracting and building until December, 1853. He was then appointed deputy clerk of the Circuit Court of Wells County by George McDowell, under whom he served four years. In 1859 he was elected clerk of the Circuit Court of Wells County, and re-elected in 1863, serving eight years. In 1867 he was made deputy clerk of the Circuit Court by his successor, Dr.

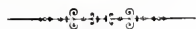
James R. McCleery, and served under him until April, 1874, when he was appointed by the board of county commissioners to fill the vacancy in that office caused by the death of Dr. McCleery, and was also commissioned by Governor Thomas A. Hendricks, serving as clerk of the Circuit Court until the following November. From the fall of 1880 until 1882 he served as deputy clerk under W. J. Craig, having been in the clerk's office either as principal or deputy for over twenty-one years. Mr. Wisner served as deputy county treasurer under County Treasurer Lemuel Bachelor from September, 1875, until December, 1878, and served in the same capacity under his successor, Lawson Popejoy, from December, 1878, until June, 1879, since which time he has been variously engaged. He is a Master and Royal Arch Mason, being a member of the lodge and chapter at Bluffton, and has served his lodge as worshipful master for six years. He is a charter member of his chapter, being its first high priest, which position he has filled for five years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wisner have reached a good old age, and are enjoying that rest which is the reward of a well-spent life. They are members of the Baptist church at Bluffton, of which he has been a deacon for years.

HENRY MILLER was born in Carter County, Tennessee, March 2, 1802, a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Miller) Miller, and died at his residence in Lancaster Township June 25, 1882, aged eighty years, three months and twenty-three days. In priority of settlement he was the oldest settler of Wells County at the time of his death. He made his home near where Murray now stands, November 10, 1832, having been preceded by only a few men, viz: Mr. Norcross



Philip Shadle

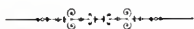
Dr. Knox and Robert Harvey. Here he purchased the land on which he lived almost fifty years. He was united in marriage in Union County, Indiana, April 15, 1823, to Catherine Seck, who was born in Tennessee June 10, 1801, and died August 1, 1877. To them were born ten children—John, a resident of Kansas; Mrs. Melinda Frybuck, of Michigan; Mrs. Matilda Matthews, of Bluffton; Daniel, living in Illinois; Simon, of Wells County, Indiana; Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, living at Murray; Henry and Adam, living in Kansas; William, deceased; Mrs. Catherine Weaver, of Lancaster Township. Four of the sons, Adam, William, Simon and Daniel, served as soldiers during the war of the Rebellion, and William died in Andersonville prison. Mr. Miller was an enterprising and public-spirited citizen of Wells County, and was always active in anything having for its object the advancement of his township or county, building churches and school-houses, roads and bridges. Few men have been more favorably known for generous, kindly hospitality. He was not wealthy, but always had plenty and to spare to those less fortunate. He practiced the Christian virtues of love and charity toward all, and was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.



PHILIP SHADLE, an active and enterprising farmer of Chester Township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Lebanon County, April 14, 1825. His parents, Philip and Mary (McGlade) Shadle, were natives of the same State, the father born in Center County, the mother having been brought from Ireland to Dauphin County by her parents when two years old. They were married in Dauphin County, and subse-

quently removed to Lebanon County, where they made their home for thirty-five years. They then removed to Wayne County, Ohio, in 1836, and one year later removed to Holmes County, Ohio, where they resided from the spring of 1838 until the fall of 1847. The father then traded his Ohio property for 110 acres of wild land in Wells County, Indiana, to which place he removed. Procuring a cabin to move in he went to hewing logs for a hewed log house, he being a carpenter by trade, this being the first house of the kind built in that section of the county. Philip Shadle, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in Wayne and Holmes counties, Ohio, and was married in Wayne County, Ohio, August 7, 1845, to Miss Margaret Donnelly, a native of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, a daughter of John and Fannie (Singer) Donnelly, who were also natives of the State of Pennsylvania. They left their native State for Wayne County, Ohio, about 1835, and in 1850 removed to Holmes County, where they lived until their death. Mr. and Mrs. Shadle have had fifteen children born to them, of whom twelve yet survive—Mary Jane, wife of Winfield Venham; Zilla, wife of J. M. Venham, now living in Sacramento Valley, California; William; Newton; Lusetta, wife of John Godfrey; Reason A., Ellen, Samuel, John, Eli, Oscar and Ada. Those deceased are—Chambers, Lissa and Philip. Mr. Shadle came to Wells County with his family the year following his father's settlement in the county, and located on a tract of fifty-five acres of the old homestead. The first year he made his home with his parents, and the following year put up an addition to the old house. His mother died in January, 1855, his father surviving until 1874. He followed carpentering the greater part of his life, our subject attending to the duties of the farm. Mr. Shadle has

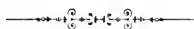
always been an industrious citizen, and since coming to the county has cleared much land, and is now the owner of 183 acres, of which 150 acres is cleared, and this, with the exception of about twenty-five acres, has been done by himself with the assistance of his sons. Mr. and Mrs. Shadle are members of the United Presbyterian church at Warren. Mr. Shadle has always taken an active interest in the public affairs of his township or county, and has served his township efficiently as trustee in all six years, filling that position when considerable tact was required to bring the finances of the township to a proper condition. In politics he is a Republican, and for a number of years was chairman of the Republican committee in Chester Township. He is a prominent and influential man in Chester Township, and during his long residence in the county has gained the confidence and respect of all who know him.



AMAZIAH SHIELDS, farmer, Chester Township, was born in that township May 8, 1858, son of William and Pheriba (Hunt) Shields. The father was born in Clinton County, Ohio, January 16, 1818, of Irish ancestry. He was reared in his native county, and was there married June 28, 1843, to Miss Pheriba Hunt, born in Guilford, North Carolina, and daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Wilson) Hunt, who removed to Wayne County, Indiana, when she was five years old. Her mother died in Wayne County, and her father afterward removed to Randolph County, where he passed the remainder of his days. Mr. and Mrs. William Shields removed to Wells County, Indiana, in 1843, locating on a farm of eighty acres in Chester Township which he had previously purchased. They made a temporary home at the house of

Mr. Shields' brother-in-law, John Lancaster, until Mr. Shields had cut down a sufficient number of trees to enable him to put up a building; and with the logs he then felled he constructed his first log cabin in Wells County. He moved his family into this primitive dwelling as soon as the puncheon floor had been laid, and without waiting for the walls to be daubed. Game of all kinds was plentiful, deer and wild turkeys frequently coming clear to his house. Wolves were troublesome and often devoured sheep within sight of their owners. Mr. Shields was not fond of hunting, but gave his time and attention to the clearing of his land and cultivating his farm. He had to go to Wayne County for grain, and to Mount Etna for his milling. There was no store or doctor nearer than Camden. Mr. Shields lived, however, to see the country cleared up and settled, good improvements, railroads, markets, mills and other conveniences close at hand. Mr. and Mrs. Shields were the parents of nine children, of whom two, John Wesley and Alonzo, are deceased. John Wesley was a member of Company I, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, during the late war, and died from the severe exposure one year after his return. The living children are—Sarah Ann, wife of Eli Bryson, resides in Celina, Ohio; Thomas Milton married Matilda Ellen Turner; Robert married Mary Caroline Ellis; Mary Elizabeth is the wife of John R. Bales; Amaziah, Susan Catherine and Esther Luella. William Shields was killed October 19, 1884, while on a visit to Wayne County, by his horses running away. He was a Republican in politics, and a member of the Christian church at Chester Center. Our subject was reared in his native township and educated in its schools. He was married April 16, 1880, to Miss Sarah Ellen Maddox, a native of Chester Township, and daughter of Wes-

ley Harvey and Eliza Ann (Grove) Maddox. To this union two children have been born—Olive May and Claude. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party.



LIUTENANT DAVID CASTON, deceased. It is but a fitting tribute to the hero of many battles to mention his warlike deeds, and to again revive and keep afresh the memories of those who, when living, were numbered among the good, the noble and the true. To speak of those who live is but a recognition of their presence, but to refer to those long since numbered with the silent dead, a reverential awe fills the minds of those who recognize the worth of those we desire to honor. Lieutenant Caston was born in Summit County, Ohio, March 4, 1838, son of John and Elizabeth (McDaniel) Caston, natives of Pennsylvania. The parents were married in Ohio and reared a family of ten children, others dying in infancy. They were—David, Almira, Hiram, Harriet, Sarah, Martin, Josephus, Isaac, Louisa and Harvey. All reached maturity, married and had families, except Isaac, who was killed by guerrillas during the late war, he having enlisted when seventeen years of age in the One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Infantry. The parents came from Ohio to this county, and located two and a half miles northeast of Ossian. John Caston was a prominent and successful farmer in Jefferson Township, and although a comparatively poor man when he came, he purchased a large tract of land, and his enterprise and industry made him one of the wealthiest farmers in Jefferson Township. He was an extensive dealer in stock, taking great pride in breeding and improving their grade. He also erected two saw-mills. In his death society

lost a genial, upright man, and one of the best citizens of the township. His second wife, formerly Mary M. Koons, is a resident of Ossian. Three sons were numbered among the brave soldiers who enlisted from Wells County during the late war, two of whom were killed, and the third, Hiram Caston, was severely wounded. He recovered and upon his return from the army was married to Miss Phoebe Turner, daughter of one of the prominent farmers of Allen County. Hiram was accidentally killed while digging a well in the city of Fort Wayne, in July, 1886. Almira Caston married G. W. Stites, of Churubusco, Indiana, who was a soldier in the late war, engaged principally in hospital duty, and he now receives a substantial pension from the Government. Martin Caston married Maggie Cartwright, and they were the parents of two children. Mrs. Caston died, and Martin married Elizabeth Chalfant, and is a resident of Ossian. Josephus Caston resides upon a part of the paternal homestead. He married Susan Cartwright, a sister of his brother Martin's first wife. Louisa Caston married Charles Green, the present treasurer of Noble County, this State. Harriet married Samuel H. Sturgeon, of Ossian, who was a soldier in the civil war. He was wounded at the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, which unfitted him for further service. Harvey, the youngest son, married Miss Eliza Trenary, of this county, who died January 19, 1887. Lieutenant David Caston was a practical scholar, and obtained a classical education at Huntington, Indiana. He taught school several years in this and Allen counties, his last term being taught after his marriage. That event was celebrated April 9, 1861, with Miss Sarah J. McKessick, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Smith) McKessick, Rev. W. N. Welker, a Baptist minister of Hicksville, Ohio, performing the

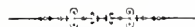
ceremony. That divine also performed the rites of baptism, received them both into the Baptist church, and later preached the funeral discourse in memory of the brave soldier, Lieutenant David Caston. Mrs. Sarah Caston was a teacher from her fifteenth year, and taught several terms after her marriage, and after the birth of two children. She has taught thirty-one terms of school, the last being taught at Sheldon, Allen County, in 1871. Her father was born in Ireland, and his parents immigrated to America in 1791, Henry being at that time five years of age. The mother was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. She had twelve children, five of whom are living—Margaret, John, Susan, Melinda and Sarah J. Margaret is the widow of William Hall, of Waterford, Elkhart County, Indiana, is seventy-three years of age and the mother of ten children; John resides in Holt County, Missouri, and married Mary A. Kline, of this county, and they have four children; Susan married Harvey Crisswell, of Kenton, Ohio, and has four children; Melinda never married, and resides at Ossian; William, now deceased, was a soldier during the great Rebellion, and was prominent during his lifetime. He was a member of Company A, Seventeenth United States Infantry, enlisting August 22, 1862. He was discharged by reason of disability August 22, 1863, but as soon as he recovered his health he re-enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Infantry. He participated in the battle of Gettysburg, and in many of the most noted battles of the war. His death occurred in 1879 at his home in Waterford, Elkhart County, Indiana. The deceased of this family are—Mrs. Eliza Kimble, Robert, Mrs. Maria Somers, Smith, aged twelve years, Nancy, aged eleven, and James, who married Catherine Snyder.

In his early life David Caston was engaged in farming. August 4, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company F, Eighty-eighth Indiana Infantry. He was appointed First Sergeant of his company, and was discharged November 28, 1863, that he might accept a First Lieutenantcy in the same company and regiment. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Tennessee, and participated in the noted battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Where shot and shell filled the air this brave soldier fearlessly fought, and escaped all injury except a slight wound received at Lookout Mountain. He was the first of his regiment to scale Lookout Mountain, and Mrs. Caston has numerous letters testifying to his heroism. Almost at the close of the war, while at the front with his company, at the battle of Resaca, this hero was mortally wounded by a rebel bullet and expired a few moments later. Thus died this brave man, who at his own request was buried on the field of battle. Later the remains were interred in the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Upon his person was found this verse, which fully expressed his wish:

"Oh, bury me on the battle field,
Let me sleep with the gallant slain;
There my young life was for my country given,
Let the soldier's dust remain.
There are many will tell how I bravely fell—
No laggard was I that day;
With a dauntless heart I played my part,
And pressed where dangers lay."

Far from his wife and children, William D., born December 3, 1862, and Maggie D. (upon whom his eyes never gazed, her birth occurring after his demise), Lieutenant Caston was buried. During his long term of service he only once returned home on leave of absence. The death of the daughter occurred when she was four years of age.

William D. is now the husband of Miss Hattie Brown, of Waterloo, Indiana, the marriage occurring March 1, 1884. To them have been born one daughter, Georgia Celeste, April 19, 1887. They reside with Mrs. Caston in Ossian. Mrs. Caston, in her motherly kindness, is rearing Zorah Phillips, her niece, and a daughter of her niece, Mary Phillips.



FREDERICK HUFFMAN, a representative of one of the pioneer families of Wells County, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, March 9, 1839, a son of Henry and Catherine (Baker) Huffman. The father was born in Clarke County, Ohio, a son of Jacob Huffman, one of the early pioneers of that county, who came from Virginia. Jacob Huffman took an active part in the early development of Clarke County, and his descendants in their time have been actively identified with the interests of the same county. In the early days of the county he built a rock house, quarrying the rock and burning the lime used in its construction on his own place. The house is still standing, and is yet in good condition. Henry Huffman grew to manhood in Clarke County, and was there married to Elizabeth Ebersole, a native of Rockingham County, Virginia. She died in Clarke County, and he subsequently married Catherine Baker, a native of York County, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Heffner) Baker, an old Pennsylvania family. They resided in Clarke County until 1842, when, packing their household effects, they came by team to Indiana, and after a two weeks' journey they came to Jackson Township, Wells County, and located on a ninety-one acre tract of land which Henry Huffman had entered some time before. He had also built a small log

cabin before the family came to the county, which was so low that a person could not stand up straight in it. The land was covered with a heavy growth of timber of which not a stick had been cut when purchased by Mr. Huffman. Game of all kinds was plentiful in those early days, and wild animals roamed the forests, and the howling of the wolves was an almost nightly occurrence. Mr. Huffman cleared his land, and added to it another forty acres. Though coming here when the surrounding country was in a state of nature Mr. and Mrs. Huffman lived to see it changed into well-cultivated fields and thriving villages, and to enjoy the comforts of life. Both are now deceased, the mother dying in September, 1884, and the father about six weeks later in October of the same year. They were members of the German Baptist church, and helped to organize the Sugar Grove Church, in Jackson Township, being instrumental in the erection of the church at that place. Frederick Huffman, whose name heads this sketch, was but a little over two years of age when his parents came to Wells County, and here he was reared on the pioneer farm in Jackson Township, passing through many phases of pioneer life, and as soon as large enough to handle an ax he began to assist his father clear his land. He made his home with his parents until one year after his marriage. He was united in marriage November 12, 1847, to Miss Mary Ruse, a native of Delaware County, Indiana, and daughter of John and Phoebe (Jennings) Ruse, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively. Her father died in Delaware County while the family were preparing to come to Wells County. The mother came with her children and made their home with Daniel Jones, one of the pioneers of Wells County. The mother died in 1841, and Mrs. Huffman was reared in the family of Mr.

Jones. Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Huffman, only four are living—Phoebe Catherine, wife of George Irick, of Huntington County; Octavia Jane, a teacher, having taught one term in the home school and a term in Wexford County, Michigan; Lucy Ellen and Albert. Daniel, Ezekiel, Nancy Elizabeth and Mary Alice are deceased. In 1858 Mr. Huffman engaged in farming on his own account, renting forty acres of land adjoining his father's property, and there he resided until 1861. He then removed to his present farm, where he had purchased eighty acres the year before on which a small cabin had been built and ten acres cleared. In 1870 he erected a large and substantial residence and other farm buildings, and is now the owner of 200 acres of choice land, all of which, with the exception of thirty-five acres, he has cleared and brought under cultivation, the result of years of persevering toil and industry. Both Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are members of the German Baptist church. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party. Most of his life has been spent in Wells County, where he is widely known and universally respected.

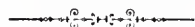
L MASON, M. D., was born in Carroll, Fairfield County, Ohio, November 3, 1837, and removed with his parents to Wells County, Indiana, April 8, 1838. He attended school during the first years of life at distances varying from five to one and a half miles; being brought up a farmer. He attended Liber College, Jay County, Indiana, a part of 1860, 1861, 1862 and 1866. He was married to Miss M. A. Fitzsimmons August 3, 1861. He read medicine and taught school in Indiana and Ohio for several years, and afterward attended the Ohio Medical

College, graduating in the spring of 1872, and also graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery in the spring of 1873, but had practiced medicine some time before receiving a degree. He has given his undivided attention to the practice of his chosen profession since receiving a degree.

JAMES SCOTT, one of the early settlers of Union Township, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1825, son of John and Debby (McCorkle) Scott, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Youngstown, Ohio. They were married in Ohio and became the parents of six children—James, Isabella, Andrew, John, William and Calvin. All were born in Ohio. Our subject came to Wells County in 1849, in company with John Wilson and family, James Harris, and Nancy Horn, all of whom were in one wagon. James, then a young man, had money enough to purchase 160 acres of land on the Indian Reserve, which had only been open for settlement but a short time. His first log cabin was built a few feet east of his present fine house, and the tall elm which stands in his yard has grown from a small sprout that came up near the walls. He kept "bachelor's hall" in his pole shanty for eighteen months while he made the first clearing on his land. Not a tree had been felled nor a road opened in the neighborhood. Game was plenty, and James fried his own venison and baked his own johnnycake; he ate it, too. The Wolf-cade family came to the township about the same time that Mr. Scott came, and located a mile east of his land. They had eight children, four sons and four daughters; one of the latter, Belinda, became the wife of our subject in June, 1851. The cabin that was to be her home had neither floor nor mud between the

logs. But the young couple laughed at the prospect before them, as the future promised better things. After four years of happy married life, and during the sickly year of 1855, while her husband was ill with typhoid fever, she sickened and died with that dread disease, leaving one child, Eliza J., now wife of Thomas Burnau. She was sixteen months old at the time of her mother's death. In the autumn of 1856 Mr. Scott was married to Miss Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Ira and Jane (Fleming) Wright. Her ancestors were Irish. Her mother was reared in Vigo County, Indiana, to which State her parents had removed from Maryland. Her father disappeared very mysteriously when she was seven years of age, and was supposed to be murdered for his money, as he went to the village of Rosseau, drawing the money for his tobacco crop, and was never seen by his family again. His wife afterward married Joseph Shipley, and they had five children—George W., Rachel S., John L. (deceased), Henry M. and Sarah J. (deceased). To her first marriage eight children were born—Mary, Aurelia, Hannah, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Amanda, Eliza J. and William I. Ira Wright was an excellent scholar, and his daughter, Elizabeth, taught school prior to her marriage. Many happy and prosperous years have been passed in the Scott homestead, and the thirty-one years of wedded life have sat lightly upon her brow. She used to rake the wheat after the sturdy arm of her husband had cradled it away from among the stumps. They shared each other's trials as well as labors. After her husband had bound the sheaves, she placed them in shock. While he did the night chores, she prepared the frugal supper; and their lives, which began with such sympathy, are to-day bound by much stronger ties of love. She was one of the brave, pioneer women who helped to reclaim the

forests and cause them to produce fields. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have had four children—Clark L., who married Ida M. Knaus, now a resident of Fayette County, Illinois; Alva C., deceased; William P., who married Emma Allen, and Alma B. They have reared and educated David Scott and Norah B. Fuels, who now reside with them. Mr. and Mrs. Scott are hospitable people, and the stranger always finds a welcome. Their larder is always full of delicacies. Their broad acres are finely cultivated, and each year brings an income which makes a snug bank account. Mrs. Scott is a member of the Disciple church. Mr. Scott is a member of no church, but is liberal in supporting all churches.



ELSON KELLOGG TODD was born in Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, February 10, 1867, the only son of Jacob J. and Rachel J. (Kellogg) Todd. He was reared in his native city, where he received a good education in the schools of that place. He was a member of the first graduating class from the Bluffton High School in the year of 1883, being the youngest in the class, having just attained his sixteenth year. At this time, being desirous to learn a trade, he entered the office of the *Wells County Times*, where he served an apprenticeship, and either in the capacity of printer or writer he has since been more or less connected with the press of Bluffton. In December, 1884, he commenced the study of law in his father's office, pursuing his legal studies in connection with his work in newspaper offices until December, 1885. He then went to Portland, Jay County, and continued reading law in the office of Haynes & Cox, returning to Bluffton eight months later, where he was again connected with his father's office until

February, 1887. From November, 1886, until March 1, 1887, he was city editor of the *Wells County Times*, and from that time until May 1 following he held the same position on the *Indiana Bugle*, the successor of the *Times*. In 1884 he tried the competitive examination for a vacant cadetship at West Point Military Academy and so well acquitted himself on this occasion that when a vacancy occurred soon after Hon. George W. Steele, Member of Congress, tendered him the appointment to the National Academy, which, however, he declined. In politics, like his father, Mr. Todd is a Republican.

HENRY W. DALRYMPLE, of Liberty Township, was born in Preble County, Ohio, January 19, 1838, son of John and Judith (Williams) Dalrymple. The father was born in New Jersey, August 18, 1810, of German descent, and the latter was a native of Ohio and a daughter of Isaac Williams. When our subject was three years of age his parents removed to Huntington County, this State, where the father purchased a farm in the dense wilderness. Here Henry W. was reared to manhood. In his father's family were fourteen children, nine of whom are living. Both parents were members of the Disciple church. The father died in October, 1862, at the age of fifty-two years; the mother died in 1856. Henry W. was married April 7, 1861, to Miss Hannah A. Wright, daughter of Ruel and Elizabeth (Shaw) Wright, the former a native of New Jersey, and the latter of Pennsylvania; they settled in Huntington County, this State, in an early day. Mrs. Dalrymple was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, in September, 1838, and came to Indiana when six years of age. Mr. Dalrymple purchased a part of the

old homestead and resided there until September, 1874, when he removed to Wells County and purchased 120 acres of partially improved land on section 5, Liberty Township. In 1885 he sold his farm and bought his present one on section 4 of Liberty Township. The farm contains 252 acres of improved land in a high state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Dalrymple are the parents of six children—Emma A., Warren M., Rosa E., Cora E., Charley W. and Lloyd W. Emma A. died January 10, 1863. Mr. Dalrymple was elected township assessor in 1880 and served six years. In 1886 he was elected township trustee and is the present incumbent. Himself and wife are members of the Christian church. During the late civil war he served in Company A, Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry, but after going South he was transferred to the wagon trains, and served there until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged November 18, 1865. Politically Mr. Dalrymple affiliates with the Democratic party.

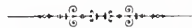
GEORGE NUSBAUMER, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, August 11, 1842, son of Joseph and Barbara (Schwaller) Nusbaumer. His father was born in Soltatown, Switzerland, where he was reared to mechanical pursuits. He was married in Switzerland, and all of his children were born in that country except George. In 1842 the family immigrated to America, and at once located in Wayne County, Ohio. There the father followed farming and grocery keeping until 1863, when he removed to this county and settled in Nottingham Township, where his son, John J., bought a piece of land, and there the father died in September, 1865,



H. W. Dabrymple

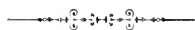
and the mother in October, 1876. Both are buried in McDaniel's cemetery. George was reared in his native county and resided there permanently until 1862, when he enlisted in the civil war for three years. While in the service his parents removed to Wells County, Indiana, where he also came in 1865 and bought forty acres of land where he now resides. About fifteen acres were cleared, but there were no improvements. Two years later he bought forty acres more, upon which had been built a log cabin, and there he removed his family. He built his present brick residence in 1875. Mr. Nusbaumer now owns 120 acres of land, of which seventy acres are cleared. He was married in Wayne County, Ohio, January 27, 1866, to Miss Catherine Hunsinger, a native of that county and daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth Hunsinger. Her father was born in Baden, Germany, and was a weaver by trade. Her mother was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and from there removed to Wayne County, Ohio, where she was married. Both are living a retired life, the father at the age of eighty-six, and the mother seventy-seven. Mr. and Mrs. Nusbaumer have had ten children, of whom three, John F., Clark and Willie, are deceased. The living are—Elizabeth, Alpha Albertus, Barbara Ann, George Raymond, Phebe May, Vedic Zell and Jessie Lee. In August, 1862, Mr. Nusbaumer enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Seventh Ohio Infantry, the regiment rendezvousing at Cleveland. Thence they went to Covington, Kentucky, thence to Camp Delaware, Ohio, thence to Alexandria, Virginia, joining the Eleventh Army Corps, under General Franz Sigel. His first general engagement was at Chancellorsville. At that battle the bugler was killed, and Mr. Nusbaumer supplied his place. At the celebrated battle of Gettysburg he carried the

right guide, and his regiment was one of the supports of Pickett's battery when they were attacked by the Louisiana Tigers, in the second day's fight. Mr. Nusbaumer carried from the field the colors of the Eighth Louisiana Regiment, captured in the hand-to-hand fight over the guns. He next took part in the engagement at Fort Wagner, one of the defenses of Charleston, his division becoming a part of the Army of the Gulf. He took part in all the movements of his regiment until, in Florida, he was made a member of the regimental band, and during the last six months of the service he served in that capacity. He was discharged at Charleston, South Carolina, July 10, 1865, and returned home by way of New York to Cleveland; thence to Wayne County, Ohio; thence to Wells County three weeks later. He was a brave soldier, never shirking any duty, however arduous. In politics he is a Democrat. Himself and wife are members of the Christian church.



LEWIS L. HOWARD is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born March 27, 1857, a son of Robert G. and Jane (Dobbs) Howard, early settlers of Chester Township. He was reared in his native county, receiving his early education in the common district schools, and subsequently attended one term at Montpelier and two terms at Bluffton. In 1878 he went to Valparaiso, Indiana, and entered upon a college course, remaining there a year and a half, when, on account of ill-health, he went to New Mexico, where he remained ten months. He then returned to Indiana, and in the spring of 1884 went to Dakota and spent two months. He began teaching when

twenty-one years of age, and has since given his attention to that profession. He is a member of Montpelier Lodge, No. 410, I. O. O. F., of which he is vice-grand.



ROBERT GEORGE HOWARD is a native of Hampshire County, Virginia, born March 15, 1800, a son of Samuel and Mary (Biggins) Howard, also natives of Virginia, his father born in Hampshire County, of English parentage, and his mother in Loudoun County. The parents were married in Hampshire County, living there until the fall of 1800, when they moved to what is now Marshall County, West Virginia, locating about ten miles below Wheeling, where Robert was reared and married. In their declining years the parents made their home with Robert, the mother dying at his house January 10, 1851. In 1854 he left West Virginia and with his family and his father moved to Indiana, arriving in Wells County September 7, coming by rail as far as Winchester, their goods, however, being brought by teams. They located on 160 acres of land in Chester Township, which Mr. Howard had bought the year before. About fifty acres had been cleared and there were some old log buildings on the place, which they made use of until better ones could be built. Game at that time was scarce in the county, although deer were occasionally seen, and although in his early life Mr. Howard had been quite a hunter, he did not have much opportunity to practice the art after coming to Wells County. He has traveled over a large part of Indiana and Illinois on horseback when there was no other mode of conveyance, and visited Indianapolis soon after the capital was located there, when the town

consisted of a few huts. The most imposing buildings in the place were three frame houses which were called Governor's Row. He witnessed the first land sale, and could have bought land on the present site of Indianapolis for \$1.25 an acre. He was at Elkhart Prairie when it was the home of the Big Chief. Mr. Howard was married February 21, 1839, to Miss Jane Dobbs, who was born near Redstone, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Andrew and Margaret (Porter) Dobbs, her mother a native of Ireland and her father of Irish ancestry. She was reared in Marshall County, West Virginia, whither her parents moved in her ninth year. To Mr. and Mrs. Howard have been born ten children, nine of whom are living—Ann Amanda, wife of D. H. Patterson; Samuel, of Upland, Grant County; Margaret, wife of Elliott Crossan, of Albuquerque, New Mexico; William, of Blackford County, married Sarah C. Kelley; Harvey; Thomas B., also of Blackford County, married Irene Hobbs; Lewis L.; Robert G., of Jay County, married Rachel Renberger; Mary E., wife of Walter S. Harper, of Rockford, Illinois. One son, James P., was a graduate from Ann Arbor, Michigan, Medical College, and located in Blunt, Hughes County, Dakota, where he died December 29, 1885, aged thirty-two years, his death being caused by a mistake in compounding a prescription given him by his physician. He left a wife who was formerly Mary Elizabeth Bryson. He was a member of the Masonic, Odd Fellows and United Workmen orders, and of the Blunt Rifles, a military organization of Dakota. His remains were brought to his old home in Wells County for burial. Mr. Howard's father was reared in the Whig school of politics and was afterward a Democrat, with which party the son has always affiliated, casting his first presidential vote for Andrew

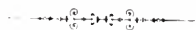
Jackson. He has in his possession a cane cut from the farm of General Jackson which was a present to his father.

—♦♦♦♦♦—
ALLISON FULTON, farmer and stock-raiser, Harrison Township, was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1820, son of Robert and Letitia (Kenning) Fulton, also natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a son of James Fulton, who came from Ireland and settled in western Pennsylvania, forty miles east of Pittsburg, when the inhabitants were principally Indians. The mother was a daughter of Charles Kenning, of Indiana, who was born in Ireland, immigrated to America and settled in Pennsylvania. Our subject was reared on a farm and remained at home until he was of age, after which he went to Maryland and took charge of a plantation for five years. He then returned to his native county, where he was married October 17, 1850, to Miss Mary Catherine McQuade, daughter of Andrew and Sarah McQuade, who were natives of Pennsylvania and of Irish descent. In the fall of 1853 our subject removed to Indiana, accompanied by his parents, driving through with teams. Mr. Fulton purchased 155 acres of heavily-timbered land, which they at once began to clear and improve. They have lived on this farm thirty-four years. He afterward added eighty acres to his original purchase, but has disposed of it. Mr. and Mrs. Fulton have three children—James M., a postal clerk on the Wabash Railway, living at Huntington, Indiana, was married March 15, 1872, to Mary Powell, daughter of David and Catharine Powell; John M., a real estate dealer in Kansas City, Missouri, was married March 23, 1880, to Mary Daily, a daughter of Samuel and Lu-

cinda Daily, and has one child—Harry; Frank O., living on the old homestead, was married August 19, 1886, to Rose Eaton, daughter of Thomas and Mary Eaton, and has one child—Allison. The parents are active members of the Presbyterian church, and in politics Mr. Fulton is a Republican. Mr. Fulton is a self-made man. By industry and economy he has acquired a good property that will make his life comfortable in his old age.

—♦♦♦♦♦—
FRANK W. GARRETT, physician and surgeon, Liberty Center, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, June 27, 1855, a son of Joseph Garrett. When six years of age his parents removed to this county, where he was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. At the age of twenty years he began teaching school, and taught three years. In 1878 he began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of John A. Morrison, of Liberty Center. While he was still pursuing his studies, he and his preceptor engaged in the drug business as partners. In December, 1879, he was appointed postmaster under President Hayes' administration, holding the office three years and ten months, then resigned. He took his first course of lectures during the winters of 1880-'81, and the second in 1881-'82, and graduated March 1, 1882, at Butler University, Indianapolis. He then began practice at Liberty Center, continuing the drug business at the same time. He also associated himself with his former preceptor in his practice, which he continued two years. He then succeeded him and is now the only practitioner in the place. He has a large and lucrative practice and is eminently successful. He was married April 5, 1882, to

Miss Susie Funk, a daughter of Absalom Funk, and they have one child, Joseph P., born June 10, 1883. Himself and wife are members of the Baptist church, and politically Mr. Garrett affiliates with the Republican party.



PETER C. LEAVENGOOD was born in Union County, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1823, son of Christian and Elizabeth (Keiser) Leavengood. His grandfather, Jacob Leavengood, was born in Germany, and with his wife settled in Union County, Pennsylvania, near the Susquehanna River, during the latter part of the seventeenth century. He, with his brothers John and Fiedel and their sisters, were sold from the ship in which they crossed the ocean, to pay their passage money. Jacob was married before the war of 1812. He and his brother John served during that war, and during its progress John was killed and scalped by the Indians. Twice during their early life in Pennsylvania Jacob had to flee with his wife across the Susquehanna, where there were more settlers, in order to save their lives from the prowling savages. These savages were hostile, and frequently murdered and robbed the early settlers. At the age of eighteen years Christian began to learn the blacksmith's trade, and later took charge of his employer's shop. Previous to his marriage he built a shop on his father's farm, where he worked at the forge for many years, quitting it in later life to take charge of the ancestral homestead. On this farm their nine children were born—Mary, Elizabeth, Jacob, John, Susanna, Daniel, Catherine, Peter C. and George. In 1830 the family removed to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, where Christian had bought land before the Indians

left that county. Only three houses had been built in New Philadelphia, the county seat of that county, when he made his purchase, and one of these he helped to put the rafters upon. When he selected these lands Indians yet had their cabins in the woods, and he slept in their deserted wigwags. The parents died on this farm, the father at the age of ninety years, and the mother at the age of seventy-nine years. All their children were married before their death, and all are living in Ohio except our subject and his sister Mary, who married Jacob Stahe in Pennsylvania previous to the removal of the family to Ohio. Elizabeth married Abram Deitz; Jacob married Susanna Stahl; John became the husband of Margaret Horner; Susanna married Jacob Lehmann; Daniel married Mary Lowrey; Catherine became the wife of George Peshing; George married Magdalene Forney, and Peter C. married Martha A. Zimmerlee, daughter of Jacob and Clara (Brown) Zimmerlee, of this county. She was born in Huntington County September 6, 1848. Their marriage was celebrated March 28, 1868, John Lantz, Esq., performing the ceremony. In 1849 Mr. Leavengood bought the land upon which he now resides, and for fifteen consecutive years made annual trips to Ohio, where he was a contractor in his business, that of a stone mason. His first log cabin is still standing, fronting their handsome country residence, and it presents a venerable appearance. It is a monument to the pioneer days when, full of life and vigor, the young husband felled and hewed the logs which form its weather-beaten walls. He was a proud and happy husband when his young bride was installed mistress of what was then an aristocratic mansion. The death of their first-born, Melinda E., occurred beneath its roof, September 23, 1878. The other children, Delphena, Silas G., Salome

A. and Celeste O., were all rocked to sleep within its portals. The family have moved into a fine frame building, and the wealth of the owner has increased with his years. His broad acres are bereft of the stately oak, and large crops are raised where the Indian once chased the flying deer. The same that roamed the woods in countless numbers have all disappeared, and the young men of forty years ago are the aged sires of to-day, and from their lips are gathered the facts that make the history of their county.

WILLIAM JASPER POULSON, of Chester Township, was born in Harrison Township, Blackford County, February 26, 1848, son of William and Deborah (Ross) Poulson. When he was sixteen years of age his parents removed to this county, and here he has since resided, with the exception of twenty months spent in the West. About 1873 he moved to Smith County, Kansas, but returned again to Indiana after a brief sojourn. He purchased his present farm in February, 1881, which consists of eighty acres, sixty acres being cleared, and good improvements. He was married October 17, 1867, to Miss Rebecca Jane Dodds, a native of Butler County, Pennsylvania, and daughter of David and Elizabeth (Duncan) Dodds. Her father was also a native of Butler County, of Scotch-Irish descent. Her mother was born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, also of Scotch-Irish descent. Her parents were married in Allegheny County and located in Butler County. In 1855 they removed to Harrison County, Indiana, thence to Wells County in the spring of 1866, and to Blackford County in 1873, where the father died February 14, 1879, and the mother August 17, 1877. Mr. and Mrs.

Poulson have two children—Mary Alice and James Harvey. Politically Mr. Poulson is a Republican, and has held the office of supervisor. He is a member of the Christian church, and Mrs. Poulson of the Missionary Baptist church.

JOHAN J. NUSBAUMER, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born near Canton Solothurn, Switzerland, February 29, 1824, son of Joseph and Barbara (Schwaller) Nusbaumer, also natives of that country, where the father followed farming and milling. John J. assisted his father in his work, and in 1842, when he was eighteen years of age, the family left their native land, and going through France to Havre, took passage on the ship *Ville de Lyons*. After a pleasant voyage of thirty-six days they arrived in New York the last of June. The father preceded them one year, and had purchased 100 acres of land in Wayne County, Ohio, then went back to Switzerland for his family. From New York they went up the Hudson River, the Erie Canal, Lake Erie to Cleveland, thence by canal to Massillon, and by wagon to their new home. There they followed farming, butchering, changing to grocery keeping, etc., until 1863, then removed to Wells County, where our subject bought eighty acres of land where he now resides, about forty acres being partly cleared. He has added to his original purchase until he now owns 160 acres of excellent land, 100 acres being cleared of timber. His father died in September, 1865, and his mother in October, 1876. John J. was married in this county July 12, 1863, to Elizabeth Warner, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Dundoor) Warner, natives of Pennsylvania. Her father

died when she was a small child, and her mother afterward married Samuel Shoemaker. She died when Mrs. Nusbaumer was fourteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Nusbaumer are the parents of ten children—Alexander and Lewis A. (twins), Franklin, Mary Ann, Christina, Magdalena, Sarah Ann, Agnes, Catherine and Eva. The parents and family are members of the Catholic church, and in politics he is a Democrat.

—•••••—

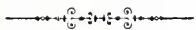
WILLIAM ABSHIRE, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Madison County, Virginia, November 29, 1822, son of Allen and Polly (Farmer) Abshire, who were born, reared and married in that State. When William was two years old his parents removed to Henry County, Indiana, by wagon, where the mother died in 1846. William was reared in Delaware County, and after changing residence twice, finally bought land there. In 1862 he sold out and purchased 186 acres of land in this county, of which about 141 acres were cleared. He was married in Rush County, in 1853, to Miss Emily Elizabeth Tackett, daughter of John and Martha R. Tackett, natives of Kanawha County, Virginia. Her father was killed in a railroad accident in Hancock County, her mother also dying in that county. Mr. Abshire is independent in politics, always voting for men and measures rather than for party. He has held the office of supervisor of Chester Township.

—•••••—

CHARLES MELVIN FRANCE, an active and enterprising citizen of Bluffton, and senior member of the law firm of France & Lee, was born in Windsor County,

Vermont, June 8, 1833. His parents, Frederick and Alice (Stonghton) France, were born in the State of Vermont, the father of Welsh-German descent and the mother of Puritan ancestors. Twelve children were born to them, of whom only five survive—Charles M., our subject; William H. H., superintendent of the Adams County Infirmary; Martha P., of Willshire, Ohio, widow of George W. Place; Mary, also living in Willshire, is the widow of Seth Watkins, who was killed at the battle of Shiloh while in the Union service, and Philemon, living in Van Wert, Ohio. The father was a farmer by occupation. In 1846 he came West with his family and located in Licking County, Ohio. In May, 1853, he removed to Adams County, Indiana, locating on a farm in St. Mary's Township, where he died the following September. He was a Universalist in his religious belief, and while living in Vermont was a member of the Universalist church. The mother is still living at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, making her home with her son in Adams County. She is a member of the Baptist church at Pleasant Mills. Our subject, Charles M. France, was reared from his thirteenth year in Licking County, Ohio. In his youth he attended the district schools, and completed his education at the high school at Hartford, Ohio, where he spent eighteen months. On becoming of age he engaged in farming in Mercer County, Ohio, and for ten winters, until 1865, he taught school in Mercer County, Ohio, and in Adams County, Indiana. He settled in Adams County in 1865, where he followed farming until 1869. He then began reading law in the office of James R. Bobo, of Decatur, with whom he subsequently became associated in the practice of law under the firm name of Bobo & France. This partnership was dissolved in 1876. Mr. France continued to

practice his chosen profession at Decatur until 1879, being at different times associated with others, and in November of that year he came to Bluffton, Wells County, where he has since been in constant practice. He was associated with Jay G. French as France & French until 1884, when he formed a partnership with M. W. Lee, thus forming the present law firm of France & Lee. Mr. France has been twice married. He was first married to Miss Miranda Thomas in Delaware County, Ohio, December 24, 1853. She died while on a visit in Whitley County in 1857. She left one son, John T., who is now an attorney at law at Decatur, Indiana. For his second wife Mr. France married Miss Elizabeth Sauthrin, of Adams County, Indiana, the date of this marriage being October 20, 1870. In politics Mr. France is a Democrat. While living in Adams County he served as justice of the peace for twelve years. He is a Master Mason and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Decatur, and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Bluffton. Mrs. France is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.



JAMES S. CARTWRIGHT, farmer, section 22, Jefferson Township, was born in Niles, Trumbull County, Ohio, son of John and Margaret (McCorkle) Cartwright, the former a native of Berks County, Virginia, born February 3, 1797, and the latter born October 24, 1801, in Trumbull County, Ohio, of Irish ancestry. They were married in that county, and seven of their children were born prior to their removal to Indiana—James S., John A., Allison B., Margaret, Mary, Nancy and Lorinda. In the fall of 1852 the family settled in Ossian, and John engaged in the mercantile trade for several

years. Soon after locating he was appointed postmaster, and during a Democratic administration, from the time of President Pierce until after the inauguration of President Lincoln, he filled that position. He was a very prominent local politician, and with the exception of James S. all his children were Democrats. The death of the mother occurred September 12, 1857, and afterward John Cartwright married Mrs. Nancy Stapleford, of Fort Wayne. Both are now deceased. Isabella, the oldest child, was married in Ohio to Henry G. Donaghy. They had four children, only one surviving. Margaret married John Johnston, and they had two children. Mr. Johnston died and his widow married Samuel Oswalt, of Ossian, and they have one son. Mary married Milo J. Garrell. John A. became the husband of Susan Hyatt, and is a resident of Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana; he was principal of the schools of that city for several years; was a member of the General Assembly in 1884-'86. Nancy became the wife of Dr. John I. Metts. Allison D. graduated in medicine and practiced at Zanesville several years; he married Mary Jennings, and they reside in Delphi, Indiana, where Mr. Cartwright is engaged in the mercantile trade. Lorinda graduated at the Presbyterian College at Granville, Ohio, and has taught many terms of school in Bluffton and Kansas; she married John S. Howard, a merchant of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Cartwright was educated in the common schools, and passed his early life on the farm. October 5, 1842, he was married to Miss Sarah Shafer, daughter of Jacob and Mary Shafer, William Roberts, Esq., of Trumbull County, performing the ceremony. The Shafer family were natives of Perry County, Pennsylvania, and immigrated to Ohio in about 1818. They were the parents of eleven children, five of

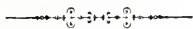
whom are living—Susan, wife of John Rush, of Southern Iowa; Emily became the wife of William Ripple, of Youngstown, Ohio; Laura married John Murphy, a farmer of Champion, Ohio; Almira married Emory Kibler, a farmer of Manchester, Ohio; Mrs. Cartwright is the only child living in this State. Both her parents are deceased and are buried in Ohio. When Mr. Cartwright came to this county he purchased and settled upon the tract of land now owned by David Hoopingarner. A cabin had been built and a few acres cleared. A stick fireplace ornamented the most of one end of the cabin, and the great piles of wood consumed were not taken into account in that early day. Mr. Cartwright also purchased the eighty acres where he now resides, not a stick having been removed. In 1855 he purchased and removed to this tract a small frame house, which has since been replaced by good substantial buildings, and the appearance to-day suggests much care and taste upon the part of the owner. He wielded a skillful ax, and while some of his neighbors employed their time in hunting, Mr. Cartwright made large inroads upon the forest trees which covered his lands. He also dealt considerably in stock as his lands became improved, and from the commencement of his business life in this county it has been a success. Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright have had twelve children, six of whom are living—John T. (deceased), Henry J. (deceased), Andrew J., William A. (deceased), Mary (deceased), Clark and Margaret (deceased). Emma, Alice J., Susan F., Lucy and Morton M. John T. was a veteran of Company K, Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and passed through many severe engagements unharmed. The malarious atmosphere of the southern swamps finally caused his death at Nashville, Tennessee. His remains were sent home and are

buried in Ossian cemetery. Henry was also a member of the same company, and served in many battles. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea. His death occurred after his return from the army. Andrew enlisted, when seventeen years of age, in the One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Infantry. His regiment did garrison duty in Kentucky, and never saw active service in the field. He is the husband of Lydia Archibald and resides in Jefferson Township. William A. died in infancy. Mary also died in childhood. Clark died of small-pox in 1852. Mr. Cartwright contracted the disease on the lakes when coming to this county, and was the first to have the dread disease which terminated the lives of his children the second year of their stay in the new country. Margaret married Martin Caston, and at her death left two children—Maggie C., the surviving one, is cared for by her grandparents, and is an unusually bright and interesting child. Emma married James K. Beatty and resides in this township. Mr. Beatty is an insurance agent and does an extensive business. Alice J. married Warren Taylor, a large carriage manufacturer at Zanesville. Susan F. married Josephus Caston, a farmer of Jefferson Township. Lucy became the wife of James C. Johnston and resides with her parents on the home farm. Morton M. is unmarried and lives in the West. The first vote Mr. Cartwright cast in Jefferson Township was challenged, he, with four others, casting their votes for Hale, the Free-soil candidate for President. The Free-soil party and the Whig party united formed the Republican party. His vote was afterward accepted, and he acted and voted with that party, then voted the Whig ticket, and was one of the first Republicans forming a party organization in this county. Himself and wife have been members of the Methodist



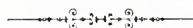
Nelson Kellogg

Episcopal church for more than forty years. Mrs. Cartwright's grandfather, Thomas McCoy, was a native of Scotland, and landed in America three days before Independence was declared, being one of the first to enlist in the struggle. He served through the entire war. His wife was Mary Stewart, a native of Ireland and a member of the celebrated Stewart family who possessed fabulous wealth. Her father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and participated in most of the noted battles. Mr. Cartwright was one of the first men made Master Masons by Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M., and has since retained a membership with the fraternity.



NELSON KELLOGG, one of the old and honored pioneers of Wells County, is a native of the State of Vermont, born at Starksboro in 1807, of Scotch and German ancestry. He was reared to the avocation of a farmer, and in his youth attended the common schools of his neighborhood and the academy at Hinesburgh, Vermont. During the years 1830 and '31 he was employed as a clerk in his father's store in his native town, and in 1833 he removed with his father's family to Ashtabula County, Ohio, where he remained until 1834. He then went to Meadville, Pennsylvania, and attended the college at that place almost two years, preparing himself for a teacher, after which he taught in the schools of Kelloggsville and Greenville, Ohio, until 1839. He was united in marriage at Greenville in January, 1837, to Mrs. Rachel (Mann) Wiley, who was of English and German origin, and to this union were born four children—Celia, who died at Bluffton, Indiana, in 1849, aged ten years; Martha, wife of James B. Plessinger; Francis N., deputy postmaster, and Mrs.

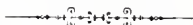
Rachel Martin, all of whom reside in Bluffton. In 1839 Mr. Kellogg came to Wells County, Indiana, and worked at the mason's trade at Bluffton until 1856. He then published a newspaper at Bluffton called the *People's Press*, until 1861, when he received the appointment of postmaster of Bluffton under President Lincoln's administration, holding that office until deposed by President Johnson in 1866. In 1843 he was elected justice of the peace, and held that office by re-election for eighteen years. In 1849 he was elected the first mayor of Bluffton. In 1868 he was again elected mayor of Bluffton. During President Grant's administration he was deputy postmaster under his son F. N. Kellogg from 1869 until 1875, after which he was variously employed until 1884, when he retired from the active duties of life on account of his advanced age. In politics he was formerly a Whig, but afterward affiliated with the Republican party. Mrs. Kellogg died at Bluffton in November, 1882, at the age of seventy-eight years. She was for many years a member of the First Presbyterian Church at Bluffton.



JACOB ZIMMERLEE, deceased, an early settler of Union Township, was born in Virginia. But little is known of the history of his parents, as they both died when he was a mere lad, and he found a home with his brother-in-law, Jacob Miller, who married his only sister, Ann. There were three other sons—John, William and David, who settled in Rush County, Indiana, while Mr. Miller came to Wells County, bringing Jacob with him. David afterward moved to and died in Adams County. Jacob was reared in this county, and without patrimony began the work of providing a home for himself. He

drove a team for his brother-in-law several years between Bluffton and Cincinnati, from which city all the goods were transported. He was fourteen years of age when he came to the county, and at that time there were scarcely any settlements. December 25, 1845, he was married to Clara Brown, and they began housekeeping on the farm now belonging to the Fredrick Eichhorn heirs. Mrs. Zimmerlee was born in Wilks County, North Carolina, February 1, 1824, and was a daughter of Elisha and Elizabeth (Redding) Brown. The nationality of the Brown family cannot be ascertained, but the Zimmerlees are of German origin. When the event of their marriage occurred, \$5 would have purchased all their united possessions. Four years after they were married he purchased on credit forty acres of land now owned by Daniel Fisher, and worked by the month to pay for it. During this time his good wife remained alone with her four children and managed to support them by weaving, so that her husband's earnings could all apply on the purchase. After the land was paid for he commenced clearing it and had the task almost completed when he sold it, and in 1861 removed to the farm now owned by his wife. The following spring they went to the Robert Miller farm on the Wabash, and returned in the fall to the farm of J. Roe, two of their children having died during their residence on the Wabash. Two years were spent on the Roe farm during which time he built the cabin that still stands in the door-yard. They removed to their new home in 1863, where they have since resided. Jacob was a shoemaker by trade and during his early married life worked at the bench during the winter season. Their first years of married life were full of hardships, but his last purchase of 110 acres made him a comparatively wealthy man, and after the

timber was removed it made a fine farm. By will the property was bequeathed to his wife during her lifetime and then descends to her heirs. The death of Mr. Zimmerlee occurred October 15, 1885, and his remains were interred at Markle. They had eight children, five of whom are living—John, who married Caroline Platt; Martha A., wife of Peter C. Leavengood; Daniel, married Nancy A. McClure; Elijah, married Alice Ormsby, and Mary E., wife of Daniel Walter. Elijah is the only child that has engaged in a profession. He taught school previous to his marriage, and abandoned his profession to engage in farming. Later he established a tile factory with Daniel Walter near the home farm, which he sold at the death of his father, and he now has charge of the homestead. All are residents of Union Township, and all reside on section 33.



ABRAHAM STUDABAKER was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, of German descent, the date of his birth being February 13, 1785, and was one of fourteen children. In 1795 his father moved with his family to Scioto County, Ohio, and in 1804 to Warren County, Ohio. In 1806 our subject married Mary Townsend, who was of English descent, and belonged to a Quaker family from South Carolina. Two years after his marriage our subject with his family, then consisting of his wife and two children, moved to Darke County, Ohio, being one of the pioneers of that county. There he began life on a heavily timbered farm, almost penniless, and built his first log cabin on Government land near Gettysburgh. It soon became necessary to erect a fort and block-house on his land to defend himself and family against the Indians, they

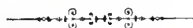
being somewhat troublesome in those times. During the war of 1812 he supplied the Government with cattle for food for the soldiers and Indians, and at the close of that war he carried the news of peace to Fort Harrison on the Lower Wabash, a distance of about 300 miles and through an unbroken wilderness. On arriving there he found that his brother David, a soldier, had been killed by the Indians a few days previous. Returning to his family he entered the land on which he first settled, and when things quieted down he sold his land and settled near Greenville, Ohio, where he purchased a farm. In 1826 his wife died, leaving him with seven children—William, Elizabeth, Mary, David, John, Abraham and Margaret. A few years after his wife's death he was again married to Elizabeth (Hardman) Lightcap, a widow, who was of English descent, and to this union were born five children—Peter, George, Daniel, Jane and Sarah. In 1833, having accumulated some money, Mr. Studabaker came to Wells County to invest in lands, and among other tracts entered the one on which Bluffton is now situated, and in 1838, when the county seat was located, he donated said land for the benefit of Wells County. In 1838 he established his son John in the mercantile business in Bluffton, and in 1839 he placed his son William on a farm four miles east of Bluffton. He also assisted many of his nephews and nieces to obtain homes in Wells County, and every year until his death he visited the county to visit his sons and friends and encourage them in their new homes. In 1847 he sent his son Peter to Wells County to clerk for his brother John. He lived on his farm near Greenville, Ohio, from 1815 until his death, which occurred March 18, 1852, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was a man of enterprise and good business management,

and by these qualities together with persevering industry he accumulated quite a fortune, which enabled him to settle twelve children in life. He was for several years commissioner of his county, and always gave satisfaction in the discharge of the responsible duties of his office, always working for the good of his county. He was a man of strict integrity, and his word was considered as good as his bond, and was respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

—•••••—

GABRIEL SHROCK, of Harrison Township, was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1831, son of Samuel and Christena (Harbaugh) Shrock, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. When he was about a year old his father died, and he found a home with his grandfather Harbaugh, with whom he lived five years. After this he lived with an uncle, William McBride, with whom he lived until he reached his majority. He learned the cabinet maker's trade of his uncle, and came to Wells County with him, February 21, 1841. He commenced learning the trade when very young, and worked at it until he reached his majority, then started out for himself, without a dollar in money; but he had a strong arm and a willing heart. He was married May 23, 1854, to Miss E. B. Gottschalk, a daughter of Jacob Gottschalk, who was born in Germany and crossed the ocean when she was six years old. After his marriage Mr. Shrock settled in Bluffton, where he worked at journey work until he earned enough to establish himself in business, which he was able to do September 16, 1856. In 1873 his health failed somewhat and he was obliged to change his occupation. He then engaged in carpentering. September 7, 1881,

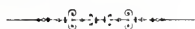
he removed to his present farm, which he had previously purchased. It was then covered with heavy timber, but he soon had it in a good state of cultivation. He now owns ninety-nine and one-half acres of improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Shroek have had seven children, five of whom are living—Mary J., wife of John W. Owens; Sarah A., Jacob A., George L. and Elizabeth B. Two children died in infancy. The eldest daughter began teaching in Bluffton when fourteen years of age, and taught seven consecutive years. She was considered one of the best primary teachers in Indiana. The children are all fitted for teaching except the youngest. Mr. Shroek has always been and is an honest, hard working man. By his industry and good management he has accumulated a good property. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party.



WILSON DEAM, who is now deceased, was a native of Ohio, born near Dayton in the year 1825. When a lad he came with his parents to Indiana, in which State he grew to manhood. At the age of twenty-one he located at the present site of Bluffton when this now thriving village could boast of but one dwelling. Here Mr. Deam engaged in the livery business, as there was much travel, although the surrounding country was sparsely settled, and this business he conducted for a period of more than forty years. For a number of years he also operated the stage line, transporting passengers and carrying the mail between Bluffton and Fort Wayne, and this associated with his livery made for him a lucrative business. Mr. Deam was twice married, taking for his first wife Miss Hannah Burwell, daughter of James Burwell.

Mrs. Deam died leaving one daughter—Francis M., now the wife Robert Hart, of Kosciusko County, Indiana. About a year after the death of his wife Mr. Deam married Mrs. Richey, widow of S. P. Richey, and to this union were born four children—Belle K., wife of Rev. Thomas Wallace, of Dayton, Ohio; Harry and Hattie (twins), the former being the wife of Professor Isaac C. Mulkins, of St. Joe, Missonri, and Ida M., wife of Rev. G. G. Copeland, of Savannah, Ohio. Mr. Deam died January 25, 1885, and was buried with Masonic honors, he having been a member of that society for many years. In politics he was an unswerving Democrat. In religion he was a Presbyterian, and was a liberal contributor to his church. He was of a genial and generous nature, and made many friends, and his death was a source of universal regret. His widow still survives, and is living in the old homestead at Bluffton. Harry Deam, the only son, was born July 16, 1857, and was reared in the town of Bluffton, where he attended school until reaching the age of seventeen years. He then went to Fort Wayne and began clerking for Foster Brothers, and at the close of the year he was promoted to foreman of their mercantile establishment, where he remained three years. He then became foreman of a branch house of William Lambert & Co., located at Bloomington, Illinois, where he was engaged seven months, when he returned to Bluffton, and for two and a half years following was in the employ of Wiley & Sumier, and A. Curry, all merchants of Bluffton. He then engaged as traveling salesman for the firm of E. M. McGillin & Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, for one year, when he again returned to Bluffton and formed a partnership with Philo Rogers in the dry goods business, with whom he was associated for one year. He was then appointed inspector and clerk of

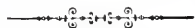
customs at Port Townsend, Washington Territory, which position he occupied for one year, when he was called home owing to his father's illness. He then engaged on his own account in the notion and millinery business, which he conducted until his father's death, and also owned an interest in the livery business with his father. After his father's death he gave up his store and has since given his entire attention to the livery business. April 16, 1884, he was united in marriage to Miss Maggie J. Craig, a daughter of David and Eliza Craig. Mr. Deam is one of the enterprising and successful business men of Bluffton. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Bluffton, holding his membership since 1880. Politically he is an uncompromising Republican. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.



ANDREW J. BRICKLEY, of Union Township, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, son of Andrew J. and Jane A. (Wolfcade) Brickley, who reared a family of eleven children in Ohio, and all except two eldest sons and one deceased came to Indiana in 1861, settling in Huntington County. Two sons, John W. and Martin V., came previous to this date, settling in Wells County. A sister, Samantha, came the next year after the eldest brother made a location. Of the children living besides the three mentioned are—Milo, Andrew, Benjamin, Franklin A. and George W. Three unmarried daughters died in Ohio. Andrew J. was sixteen years of age when he first became a resident of Huntington County, and he remained with his father until he reached his majority. When twenty years old he was married to Miss Sarah E. Hadlieh, daughter

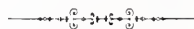
of Samuel and Sarah (Baney) Hadlieh. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, and married in Ohio. They settled near Crestline, Richland County, where six children were born—Adaline, Caroline, Catherine, Hannah, Louisa and Sarah. The family removed to this State, settling in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, on a farm now owned by William Cover. Here the parents remained until their decease. The children were all married previous to the death of their parents—Adaline became the wife of William Maddox; Caroline married John A. Dilley; Catherine is now Mrs. John W. Brickley; Hannah is the wife of Solomon Brown; Louisa married William Cover, and Sarah became the wife of our subject January 16, 1868. Mr. and Mrs. Brickley commenced housekeeping on the farm of Mr. Brickley's father in Huntington County, and four years later Andrew purchased a farm in Union Township, this county. After clearing away the trees he built a small frame barn, into which they moved. The land was still in its original condition. The same fall a frame house was built, which they at once proceeded to occupy. Two children, Liberta E. and Clement A., were born in Huntington County, and Minnie M. was born in this county. They lived on this farm until the new town of Banner was surveyed and platted. Levi Waikel had already engaged in the mercantile business, and our subject in the spring of 1883 purchased the stock and fixtures, taking possession of the goods, and in the autumn of that year erected a handsome residence. Two years later he sold out to John Taylor and purchased a grist-mill at Kelseyville, Allen County, intending to remove it to Banner City. Later he brought the machinery to the village, placed it in position, and now operates with his machinery the handle and ball bat factory

of the Miller Bros. In connection with this his machinery furnishes the motive power for the saw-mill of Levi Waikel, which began to operate in 1886. A mill has been erected for grinding feed, and he has all the machinery for making flour. Although a young man he is a pioneer in this branch of business in the new town. During the late war Milo was drafted in Ohio, but his father procured a substitute. John W. and Martin V. were drafted after their removal to Indiana. John was disabled and rejected; Martin served during the remainder of the war, was discharged, was taken sick on the way home and died in ten days after his return.



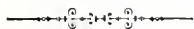
HENRY B. HUFFMAN, one of the progressive farmers of Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, is a native of the same township, the date of his birth being February 14, 1844, and is a son of Henry and Catharine (Baker) Huffman. His father being a farmer he was reared to the same avocation, remaining on the home farm in Jackson Township until nineteen years of age. On leaving home he went to Clarke County, Ohio, returning to Wells County one year later. In the fall of 1864 he entered the Union service, going first from Warren to Wabash, thence to Indianapolis, thence to Louisville, Kentucky, and from there to Nashville, Tennessee. He started from Nashville to join Sherman's army at Dalton, Georgia, but arrived there too late, when he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, by way of Nashville and the Cumberland River. From Cincinnati he went to Columbus, Ohio, where he received his discharge in June, 1865. After leaving the army he went to Blackford County, Indiana, where he worked at the carpenter's trade about two years. He then went to Jonesboro,

Grant County, going thence to Marion, and from there to Monroe Township, Grant County, where he was married in April, 1871, to Miss Margaret Catharine Thomason, a native of Grant County, Indiana, a daughter of Absalom and Rosie (Strange) Thomason, who came from Highland County, Ohio, to Grant County, where they made their home until death. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Huffman, Levi Franklin and one who died in infancy. Mr. Huffman lived in Monroe Township four years, when he removed to Liberty Township, Wells County, and one year later came to the old Huffman homestead in Jackson Township. In July of the same year he bought eighty acres of his present farm, to which he at once removed, adding to his original purchase twenty acres the same summer. When he first settled on this land about fifty-three acres had been cleared, and a few log buildings had been built. His farm now contains 180 acres of choice land, of which 120 acres have been cleared and put under good cultivation, and his present residence and farm buildings are comfortable and commodious. In the spring of 1877 he erected his fine barn, building his residence in the spring of 1879. Both Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are members of the Christian church, he being an elder of Pleasant Hill Church. Politically he is a Democrat, and while living in Grant County was elected justice of the peace. He is a member of King Lodge, No. 246, A. F. & A. M., at Warren.



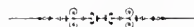
DAVID T. SMITH, attorney at law and justice of the peace, Bluffton, was born in Wayne County, this State, about 1830, and moved to Bluffton about 1857, when there were in the neighborhood of half

a dozen other lawyers in the place. For one term he filled the position of district attorney of the Common Pleas Court, being elected to that office just previous to the war. In 1879 he was elected mayor of Bluffton, and served in that capacity one term of two years. At the next election thereafter he was chosen to his present office, to which he was re-elected in 1885. He is also secretary of the Short-horn Breeders' Association. Office in the Williamson Block.



JOHNN NEFF, deceased, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1793. His father, Jacob Neff, was born in Germany and came to this country before the Revolutionary war. He died in 1777. His wife, Anna Barbara Copp, was also a native of the old country. Our subject was reared on a farm in his native county. He and his mother and one sister removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, which was then a new country. He was married in that county May 28, 1827, to Miss Catherine Neff, daughter of John Neff, who was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Her father was born in the old country, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Neff settled in Fairfield County, where they lived about one year, then removed to Athens County, where Mr. Neff followed farming until 1865. He then came to this county and purchased his present homestead on section 18, Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Neff have had nine children, all of whom lived to be grown—Levi died in Bluffton in 1884; Anna E.; Margaret E., deceased, was the wife of Samuel Friedline; Mary M., deceased; Amelia and Sarah, twins (Sarah is deceased); Catherine, wife of Adam Bartemaley; Jacob J., and Caroline, wife of George

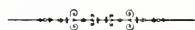
Higman. Mr. and Mrs. Neff were members of the Presbyterian church. Politically Mr. Neff affiliated with the Democratic party. They both died March 19, 1872, and were buried in one grave, never having been separated for twenty-four hours since their marriage. They had six children born in Athens County. Jacob Neff, a son of the preceding, was born in Athens County, Ohio, October 28, 1850. He lived on the farm in his native county until he was fifteen years of age, then came with his father to Wells County, where he grew to manhood. He was married August 5, 1880, to Miss Sarah M. Zirkel, a native of West Virginia, and daughter of Noah and Nancy (Baumgartner) Zirkel. She came to this county in the spring of 1880, and has since resided here. Mr. and Mrs. Neff had two children—Louisa May, born September 1, 1881, and Clara Virginia, born January 15, 1884. Mrs. Neff died October 14, 1885. In politics Mr. Neff is a Democrat.



SAMUEL H. GALYEAN, a representative of one of the early families of Lancaster Township, is a native of Indiana, born in Henry County, May 13, 1832, a son of Thomas and Tabitha Galyean. Our subject is the only one of his father's family who made part of the family after coming to Wells County, they settling in Lancaster Township in 1842. He remained with his father until reaching the age of eighteen years, when he began life for himself. He has spent the greater part of his life in Wells County, and has become one of its most respected citizens. He lived two years in Wayne County, and during that time, November 14, 1852, he married Miss Edith Ellis, who was born in that county September

23, 1833, a daughter of Mordecai and Ruth Ellis. Eight children have been born to this union—Mrs. Mary Alice Grove, living in Nebraska; Thomas M. died in his fourth year; Mrs. Tabitha Olive Fox; John Lee married Della Grove, and lives in Nebraska; Ephraim M. died in his sixteenth year; Samuel H., living with his parents; Rachel C. died in her seventeenth year, and Martha E. at home. Mr. Galyean settled on his present farm in 1853 and for a short time occupied a log cabin. He then built a hewed log house, which has since been replaced by a commodious two-story frame residence, which the family now occupy, and his other farm buildings are correspondingly good. The entire improvements on the land have been made by our subject and his wife. His farm is located on section 19, Lancaster Township, and consists of 120 acres of well cultivated land, all of which with the exception of five acres being cleared from the timber by Mr. Galyean. In politics Mr. Galyean is identified with the Republican party. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church. Mr. Galyean was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, enlisting in October, 1864, in Company B, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, his regiment being part of the Seventeenth Army Corps. He served until the close of the war, and was in line at the grand review at Washington in June, 1865. Thomas Galyean, the father of our subject, was born in North Carolina, February 22, 1787. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving a year, and after its close, in 1814, he came with his father, Thomas Galyean, to Wayne County, Indiana. Thomas Galyean, Sr., was one of the patriots of the Revolution, serving four years and six months. He died in Wayne County. Thomas Galyean, the father of our subject, married Tabitha Warren, a native of Tennessee, born in the year 1789.

Some years after their marriage they became pioneers of Henry County, where they cleared a farm in the wilderness. They sold their farm in Henry County in 1837 and moved to La Porte, La Porte County, Indiana, where Mrs. Galyean died soon after, leaving five children—Elizabeth, deceased, wife of Joseph Richey; Nancy, Sophia, Jane, and Samuel H., our subject being the only one now living. In 1842 the father came to Lancaster Township, Wells County, and was here married to Mrs. Rachel (Pettit) Scott. He made his home on section 29 on a farm that had been opened up by James Scott, the former husband of Mrs. Galyean, and here he resided until his death, which occurred in 1861. His widow survived him about ten years.



ALI ARNOLD, an active and enterprising business man of Mount Zion, where he is engaged in mercantile pursuits, is a native of Ohio, born in Wayne County, June 12, 1829, a son of Samuel B. and Mary (Phillips) Arnold. His father was a native of Maryland and of English and German ancestry, and at an early age was taken by his parents to Pennsylvania. When twelve years of age he went with his parents to Wayne County, Ohio, and there he grew to manhood, and was married to Mary Phillips, who was born in the State of New York, of English descent. They made their home in Wayne County until about the year 1835, when they removed to Medina County, Ohio, and from there came to Wells County, Indiana, in October, 1838, by ox team, being three weeks in making the journey. Eighty acres of timber land had been entered in Jackson Township for Mr. Arnold before they came out, and while he was clearing a small place and building his cabin the family lived with

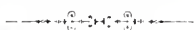


Eli Arnold

William Clark of Chester Township, whom they had known in Ohio. Mr. Arnold's cabin was 18x20 feet in size, covered with a board and pole roof, a hole cut in the wall served for a door, and this aperture was covered with a quilt. At first they had no fireplace, and their food was cooked on a fire built between two sleepers. Samuel B. Arnold came to the county a poor man, having but 37 cents in his pocket, but being handy with tools he had no difficulty in obtaining work. Game of all kinds was abundant, and Mr. Arnold became one of the greatest deer hunters of the county. He lived to enjoy the fruits of his years of toil and to see the surrounding country change from a wilderness to its prosperous condition. He died January 16, 1875, at the age of seventy-five years. His widow still survives, and is making her home with a daughter who resides on a farm adjoining the old homestead. Although eighty years of age she is still active and does her own housework. Eli Arnold, the subject of this sketch, was in his tenth year when brought by his parents to Wells County, and here he was reared to manhood and educated in the schools of his neighborhood. He was a soldier during the war of the Rebellion, enlisting September 25, 1861, in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. His regiment rendezvoused at Camp Sullivan, Indianapolis, crossed the Ohio River at Louisville, Kentucky. Their first engagement was at New Madrid, Missouri, and after the evacuation of that place by the rebels the latter occupied Island No. 10, and Mr. Arnold's company was one of four that dragged a cannon of twenty-four pound calibre to a point opposite Tiptonville by hand, where they dug rifle pits and masked their cannon and the following morning fired on the rebels while they were passing. The rebels came up with six gun-boats, which

were silenced by the four companies above mentioned and their one cannon, and one rebel gunboat was disabled. Mr. Arnold was promoted to First Lieutenant, his commission bearing the date of October 19, 1862, and after that was in a number of minor engagements up to the siege of Vicksburg. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg, the engagement at Jackson, Mississippi, was in General Banks' Red River expedition, and in the thirteen days' skirmishing while building the dam across that river. After the Red River campaign, he was on duty along the Red, Arkansas and White rivers, and afterward in Tennessee. He was honorably discharged at Memphis, Tennessee, December 30, 1864, when he returned to his home in Wells County. Mr. Arnold followed farming in Wells County until 1867, with the exception of the time spent in the service of his country, and in the fall of that year he bought an interest in a general mercantile store at Montpelier, Blackford County, Indiana, to which place he removed. He remained in Montpelier eight years, and the last two years spent there he carried on the business alone. He then moved to his farm near the old homestead in Jackson Township, where he followed agricultural pursuits four years, after which he spent one year in the mercantile business at Dundee. He then started a store on his farm, which he conducted four years. He then carried on business at Five Points about twenty months, when he removed to Mount Zion, where he had established a store in February, 1885, and by his fair and honest dealings and genial and accommodating manners he has gained the respect and confidence of his customers, and built up a good trade. Mr. Arnold has been twice married. For his first wife he married Hannah Maria Nixon, March 22, 1854, who died December 30, 1874. Nine children were

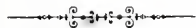
born to this union, of whom five are living—Samuel E. married Melinda Slater, and resides in Lane County, Kansas; William N., of Jackson Township, married Susan C. Moffitt; Eli L. carries on his father's store at Van Buren; Jennie J. and Schuyler C. Four died in infancy—Alice L., Melissa E., Thomas E. and one who died unnamed. Mr. Arnold was married a second time June 10, 1875, to Miss Lurinda Hart, a native of Stark County, Ohio, and a daughter of John W. Hart, who came from Ohio to Indiana, and settled in Blackford County. Three children have been born to this union—Abner C., Susan J. and one who died in infancy. Mr. Arnold is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and also of the Patrons of Husbandry. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. He is an elder in the Christian church. Is at present and has been for several years a notary public.



PETER LOHR ROBISON, dentist, of Bluffton, was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, August 8, 1853, a son of William Weimer and Sophia (Eicher) Robison. His father being a minister his youth was spent in various places in Indiana and Ohio. From 1869 to 1873 he attended the Springfield Academy in Whitley County. In 1873 he engaged in the grocery business at Bluffton with J. H. C. Smith, which he followed for a short time, then abandoned it on account of ill health. He then went to Kenton, Ohio, and began the study of dentistry in the dental rooms of Drs. Cady and Dugan, remaining under their preceptorship until the spring of 1875. He then returned to Bluffton, where he practiced dentistry with Dr. Thomas Sturgis until 1877, under the firm name of Sturgis & Robison. He

discontinued his practice on account of failing health, and was variously employed until 1879. In that year he resumed the practice of dentistry at Bluffton with Dr. J. E. Merriman, the firm of Robison & Merriman continuing until 1881, when Mr. Merriman retired from practice. Mr. Robison was married at South Whitley May 18, 1875, to Miss Willanette Merriman, daughter of Dr. E. Merriman, of that place. Two children have been born to this union, named Homer E. and Nellie. Politically Mr. Robison is a Democrat. In the spring of 1881 he was elected city clerk of Bluffton, and was re-elected in 1883, filling that position four years with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. John Robison, the great-grandfather of our subject, was a native of Scotland, coming to America in a very early day. He married a lady of German parentage, named Barbara Dinnbault. They settled in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The great-grandfather served all through the Revolutionary war. They were the parents of three children. Their only son, John Robison, was born in Fayette County, October 30, 1785, and in 1803 he was married to Catherine Weimer, who was of German descent. They settled on the old homestead in Pennsylvania, where their children were born, three sons and five daughters, William Weimer being the youngest son, and the father of our subject. He was born in 1824, and in 1847 was married to Sophia Eicher, and to this union were born four children—Catherine, wife of William C. Williams, residing near Bluffton; Peter Lohr, the subject of this sketch, and two who died in infancy. The father of our subject subsequently purchased the old homestead in Fayette County, residing there until 1859, when he sold the place and removed with his family to Adams

County, Indiana, and located in Root Township, where he was soon after ordained as a Baptist minister. He had charge of the Baptist church at Bluffton for twelve years, when, in January, 1877, he went to Columbia City, Indiana, and had charge of the church at that place for three years. In March, 1880, he accepted a call to Auburn, Crawford County, Ohio, and while there his wife was taken sick, and after a protracted illness died at the home of her son Peter Lohr, at Bluffton, Indiana, April 13, 1881, at the age of fifty-four years. She was a faithful wife and mother, and a devout Christian, and was esteemed by all who knew her. In the summer of 1881 the father returned to his native State and took charge of his old home church at Donegal, Westmoreland County. In October, 1882, he was again married to Catherine Sophia Ackerman. He is at present the pastor of the church at Donegal.



JOSEPH MYERS, one of the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of Wells County, engaged in farming in Chester Township, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, the date of his birth being July 13, 1823. His parents, Abraham and Susannah (Pence) Myers, were natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively, the father being of English origin and the mother of Dutch ancestry. They were married in Ohio, and made that State their home for many years, the mother dying in Ohio, February 5, 1859, when our subject was a young man. Soon after the mother's death the father came to Indiana and located in Wells County until his death, January 1, 1864. Joseph Myers grew to manhood in his native State, living in Clarke, Logan and other counties. He

worked as a farm laborer in Ohio until the fall of 1853, when he came to Wells County, Indiana, and located on 160 acres of his present farm in Chester Township. He had visited the county several years previous when he purchased this land, making at that time but a small payment on his purchase, when he returned to Ohio, and every year he came to Wells County to make a payment until his land was entirely paid for. His land was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and was entirely unimproved, he having to clear a space for his buildings, and with the timber he cut down he erected his hewed-log house. In February, 1854, he was married to Miss Mary Jones, a native of Randolph County, Indiana, and a daughter of Michael and Nancy Jones, who were early settlers of Wells County. They subsequently removed to Huntington County in the fall of 1866, where the father died, January 29, 1877, and the mother December 31, 1878. Mr. Myers brought his wife to his pioneer home in the woods of Chester Township, and here they passed through many trials and hardships incident to life in a newly settled country. Mr. Myers afterward bought eighty acres of land, part of which had been cleared. He now has 320 acres of land, 205 acres being cleared, all of his property being acquired by his own exertions, the result of persevering industry and good management. He owned beside his present property eighty acres which he sold. Mr. and Mrs. Myers are now surrounded with all the necessary comforts of life, and have gained the respect and esteem of the whole community, and reared a family to honorable and respectable status in life. Their children are—James B., a resident of Kingman County, Kansas; George R., of Ness County, Kansas; Nancy Elizabeth, wife of R. Y. Lambert, of Kingman County, Kansas; William A., Maggie

and Daniel. In politics Mr. Myers is a Republican. He is a member of the United Brethren church.

JOHN A. COONS, pastor of the Christian church at Nottingham, was born in Highland County, Ohio, October 6, 1836, son of Michael and Elizabeth (Allison) Coons, the former born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and the latter in the State of Delaware. The parents were married in Highland County, Ohio, and October 4, 1837, they removed to Jay County, this State, where the father died December 4, 1865, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. The mother is still living, and is in her eighty-eighth year. John A. was reared to farm life in Jay County, and this occupation he followed until he entered the ministry. He was married in his native county August 14, 1856, to Miss Catherine Hall, a native of Union County, Ohio, and to this union have been born ten children, of whom two, William T. and Dora Melville, are deceased. Those living are—Isaac O.; Mary Rebecca, wife of John Gardner, Dennis, who resides in Blackford County; Laura Olive, wife of John Mumford, also residing in Blackford County; Montille Orestus, Osro Nelson, Marvin Coons and Austin Deatur. Mrs. Coons died March 21, 1880, and then Mr. Coons decided to enter the ministry. He was first placed in charge of the congregation in Jackson Township, Blackford County, where he preached the gospel two years. He was then engaged at Silver Lake church, where he had charge two years. In December, 1885, he received his call to the Nottingham church, and besides attending to this charge, he is doing a great deal of missionary work around Wells, Randolph, Jay, Blackford,

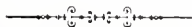
Delaware and other counties. Mr. Coons was married to his present wife July 31, 1886. She was formerly Mrs. Anna M. Eifer, whose first husband was Dr. P. J. Lanning. February 28, 1864, Mr. Coons enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Infantry, and was assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division, Twenty-third Army Corps, under General John A. Schofield, General Hovey being the first Division Commander, General Haskell the second and General Ruger the last one. He was in the engagements at Resaca, Marietta, siege of Atlanta, Jonesboro and the two days' fight at Nashville, which occurred December 15 and 16, 1864. His last engagement was at Kingston, North Carolina. They garrisoned Charlotte for seven months after the close of the war, and then returned home. He was discharged December 2, 1865. Mr. Coons was one of the charter members of Alexander Trimble Post, No. 213, Red Key, Indiana, and was the first chaplain of the post. He has held that office ever since its organization.

LEVI WAIKEL was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, November 10, 1845, son of Benjamin and Susan (Bailey) Waikel. The father was born in December, 1817, and the mother February 26, 1822. Their eight children were—William, Mary, Levi, George, Henry, Frank, Alice and Sarah. All are living except Mary, and all are married and have families. William married Olive Prough; George married Hattie Meyers; Alice married John Stoffer; Henry was married in Iowa; Sarah became the wife of Peter Wickliffe, and Benjamin married Ann Woods. Levi passed his early life on his father's farm, and when seventeen years of age enlisted in

Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, Second Brigade, Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps. He enlisted in the fall of 1862, and went into camp October 22 at Wabash, Indiana. He was in every engagement in which his regiment participated, and from the fight at Perryville he faced shot and shell until the rebels laid down their arms and the unconditional surrender of the Southern Confederacy was proclaimed throughout the States both North and South. He fought at Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Buzzard Roost, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach-tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Resaca, thence with Sherman to the sea, fought, marched and endured privations and dangers, and engaged in the last battle of the war—Bentonville. His regiment was on parade at the review in Washington, the grandest military display ever beheld on the American continent; and although foot-sore and weary from the toilsome march from Savannah, Georgia, to Washington, he participated in all the honors of the review. At Chickamauga he and several of his comrades narrowly escaped capture. The rebels were stationed not twenty feet from where our boys were lying in the dry bed of a creek, and the balls whistled about them like hail, but all escaped unharmed. Mr. Waikel was one of the advance guards that captured a steamer carrying stores for the Southern army, and was one of the first to board the vessel as she steamed up to the wharf at Savannah, Georgia. From no duty did he ever shirk, and nothing was too good for him if his cash held out. He paid \$15 for three plugs of tobacco, as it was very scarce; but the boys found it out before he could conceal it, and taking the lot divided it among the crowd in spite of his protests. His health was considerably impaired from severe exposure, and he suffered from rheumatism.

After his return from the army he was married, October 26, 1866, to Miss Cynthia C. Jarvis, daughter of Nelson and Priscilla (Brown) Jarvis, the former a native of North Carolina, and the latter of Kentucky. They were married in North Carolina, and three children, Wilmoth, Martha A. and Grace, were born in that State. The Jarvis family came to Indiana in 1845, locating at Rushville. Two children, Mary J. and Cynthia, were born there. They came to Allen County about 1849, and later to Wells County, where Rebecca and John L. were born. The father is now deceased, and the mother is living with her youngest child in Union Township. After his marriage our subject worked several years at the carpenter's trade, a part of the time in Dickinson County, Kansas, to which State he removed in 1871. He took a homestead claim of 160 acres, also owned and operated the first soap factory in Abilene. In the fall of 1880 he returned to Wells County, and has since been engaged in various occupations. He has done considerable work in stone masonry, both in this county and in Kansas. When the Atlantic & Chicago Railroad was an assured fact Mr. Waikel purchased an acre of land fronting his present residence, surveyed it into lots, erected a small store, put in a stock of goods, and is entitled to the honor of selling the first goods in the new town of Banner. He also built the first residence, and his family was the first to locate there. Their daughter Addie was the second child born in the village. Mr. and Mrs. Waikel have had eight children—Effa A., born December 22, 1869; William J., born October 26, 1871; Benjamin F., born December 21, 1873; Alwilda, born April 15, 1876; Charles H., born December 7, 1877; Lawrence D., born December 18, 1882; Addie B., born June 18, 1884, and Clinton Dewilla, born October 1, 1886.

Mr. Waikel has built two business houses and two residences in the new town of Banner, and in January, 1887, purchased and has in successful operation the first saw-mill in the village.



LEVI HOOVER, farmer and manufacturer of tile, Jefferson Township, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1826. His parents, William and Sophia (Young) Hoover, remained upon their farm in that county during their lifetime, and reared fourteen children, besides losing three by death. Those who reached maturity were—Felix, Caspar, Levi, John, Martin, David, Marion, Eliza J., Sarah, Susan, Rachel, Anna, Belle and Caroline. David and Levi are residents of this county; Caspar came to this county, married Elizabeth Davis, reared five sons, and died here in 1860. Levi was married in Miami County, Ohio, to Miss Catharine, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Hefner, May 6, 1850, Rev. Garsage, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Troy, officiating. July 28, 1853, Levi Hoover, with his wife and two children, Adaline and Frank Pierce, came to this county and made a location on the east half of section 23. This was then a comparatively new country, and the woods were full of game. Mr. Hoover has seen deer upon every section in this neighborhood. He erected the first log cabin upon the land, which he cleared and improved, making of it a nice farm. Here he remained and prospered until 1874, when he exchanged his farm for 160 acres of unimproved land, which he has since largely improved and cultivated. Numerous farm buildings now mark the thrifty farmer's acres. One can scarcely conceive that such improvements could be made in a few short

years, yet we cannot expect less, when men of energy and enterprise have made Wells County one of the best grain producing sections of Northern Indiana. Mr. Hoover has been three times married. To his first marriage were born Adaline, Frank P., Harriet E., Susan S., Rachel A., Sarah J., Mary B., Martin, Vallandigham, William A., Alonzo and Minor. The second wife was formerly Elizabeth Perry, and to this union was born one daughter—Viola. The third wife was formerly Miss Jane Nash, and they were the parents of four children—Joseph H., John L., and a pair of twins unnamed. Nine of the children are living in this county, and seven are married. Adaline married John J. Foughty, a resident of this township, and they have six children. Frank P. married Miss Ann Perry, who died leaving one child, Catherine Elizabeth; after her death Frank married Sarah P. Norton, and they have two children. Harriet E. wedded Simpson Todd, a brother of J. J. Todd, one of the most noted lawyers of this county, and has two children. Susan S. married Byron Crowl, of Jefferson Township; she was the mother of two children, and is now deceased, also one of the children. Rachel A. became the wife of William A. Taylor, and died without children. Sarah J. is the wife of David C. Hall, a carpenter by trade, and resides in Jefferson Township; they have three children. Mary B. married Melvin Kleinknight, a farmer, and has two daughters. Martin married Winnie Double, and they reside with the parents on the home farm; they have had one child, now deceased. William married Sarah Nash, and they have one daughter. Mr. Hoover's parents had seventeen children, Mrs. Hoover's parents had seventeen children, and Mr. Hoover is the father of seventeen children. Mr. Hoover has frequently been solicited to become a candidate for official honors in his

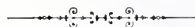
township, but has persistently declined, preferring to devote his time to improving his farm. In the spring of 1886 he and his son William and Melvin Kleinknight began the manufacture of tile on the land of Mr. Hoover, who, in the spring, 1886, purchased the interest of Mr. Kleinknight, and with his son William has since conducted the business. The clay is of superior quality, with a machine having a capacity of 100 rods of five-inch and eighty rods of six-inch tile per day. Their sales have been satisfactory and the business will be pushed during the season, as well as the manufacture of brick.

IR A B. GOODSPEED, of Harrison Township, was born in Athens County, Ohio, April 13, 1827. His father, Nathan Goodspeed, was born June 9, 1795, in Massachusetts. His mother, Thankful (Holwey) Goodspeed, was also a native of Massachusetts. The parents removed to Ohio in an early day. Our subject was reared on a farm, and remained with his parents until his marriage, which occurred March 25, 1860, with Miss Harriet N. Armitage, daughter of George and Maria (Ward) Armitage, the father a native of Pennsylvania, and the mother of Washington County, Ohio. Mrs. Goodspeed was born in Athens County, Ohio. After his marriage Mr. Goodspeed followed farming in his native county until the fall of 1865, when he removed to this county, where his father's family had settled one year previous. January 7, 1866, the father died, and the mother, August 19, 1874. After the death of the father Mr. Goodspeed purchased the homestead of the heirs, and now has 120 acres on section 18, Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Goodspeed have had four children, three of whom are living—George

W., Francis M. married Hannah Bell Markley, and Daniel H. Thankful O. died February 14, 1873, aged twenty-three years. In politics Mr. Goodspeed is a Republican.

SAMUEL KUNKLE, grain dealer, was born in Crawford County, Ohio, in 1843, a son of Michael and Julia (Mason) Kunkle. When he was four years of age his mother died, and his father afterward married Mary A. Kleinknight, who acted well a mother's part. To the first marriage were born five children, only two now surviving. To the second marriage were born seven children. Soon after his second marriage Michael Kunkle, with his family, removed to Adams County, this State, settling upon a farm near Decatur. Two years later they removed to Wells County, and located in Lancaster Township. Two years previous to his death Michael removed to Bluffton. His wife still resides in that city, and her two youngest sons live with her. Our subject purchased a tract of land upon which the village of Toesin is now located. His marriage with Miss Elizabeth Blue occurred the year previous, and the young couple began domestic life in a small log cabin built in the woods, which was afterward cleared and cultivated by Mr. Kunkle. Here they remained until 1881, when they removed to Missouri; but the building of the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad opened a good thoroughfare from east to west, and his brother-in-law, Michael Blue, insisted that he should return and lay out a town upon his land, it being quite a favorable location. After their return Mr. Blue surveyed a forty-acre tract into lots in the spring of 1882, and the first business house was erected the same season. He opened a stock of general merchandise, was appointed

first postmaster, which office he held until February, 1887. Wesley Sowers erected the first residence, and Dr. Bergman was the first physician. The first grain was purchased by Mr. Kunkle, in which business he is still engaged. The favorable location has given the town a growth that is truly surprising, and large shipments of wood, heading bolts and grain are made. Mr. Kunkle has purchased and shipped twenty-five cars of grain since harvest in 1886. The town is destined to become a fine trading point, and now has a population of about 200. The residences are neat and substantial, and everything presents a neat and thrifty appearance. Little did Mr. Kunkle think, while clearing the heavy timber from his land, that a railroad and a thriving village would soon cover the most of his land, and he become the proprietor of a village. A fine residence, two stories in height, marks the site of the old log cabin in which this worthy couple began their married life; and their house is, in fact, the hostelry of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Kunkle have only one child—Iva Desco, a bright little girl, now four years of age, the first child born in Toesin.



JOHAN H. ORMSBY, clerk of the Wells Circuit Court, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, May 24, 1844, a son of Alexander and Nancy (Wolfeale) Ormsby, the former a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the latter of Virginia, of German ancestry. His grandfather, George Ormsby, came from County Donegal, Ireland, about 1797. His grandfather Wolfeale moved from Loudenville, Virginia, to Ohio about 1807. His father was born March 24, 1800, and died March 20, 1876. His mother was born December

12, 1801, and died December 12, 1877. The subject of this sketch had five brothers and five sisters, eight of whom are now living. His parents were married in Ohio and moved to Wells County, Indiana, in 1852 and settled on a farm in Union Township, where they resided until called away by death. He received his education in the common schools of Wells County, Roanoke Seminary and Fort Wayne College. He began teaching when eighteen years of age, and has taught in all twenty-two terms in the schools of Union Township. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and First Regiment Indiana Volunteers as a private, and was discharged as a Sergeant July 3, 1865. In June, 1873, he was elected superintendent of the schools of Wells County and served two years, declining a re-election. During 1880 and part of 1881 he was a teacher in the Reform School at Plainfield, Indiana. He was also in the mercantile business at Zanesville from 1869 to 1873. In the fall of 1882 he was elected clerk of the Wells Circuit Court and re-elected in 1886. He has always been a pronounced Democrat and ever alive to the interest and success of his party. He was first married to Miss Samantha Leeper, who died in September, 1872. He was married to his present wife May 12, 1875. Her maiden name was Jennie Ray, a daughter of George and Virginia (Morrison) Ray, of Richmond, Virginia. They have one child, Homer M., born November 17, 1877. He is a bright boy around whom their fondest hopes cling. Mr. and Mrs. Ormsby are members of the Presbyterian church in Bluffton, of which Mr. Ormsby is a member of the board of trustees. He is also a member of Lew Dailey Post, No. 35, G. A. R. He is a believer in the doctrine of total abstinence from all that can intoxicate. He is a popular and efficient officer, obliging and



John Ormsby.

pains-taking in the discharge of his duties. His wife is intelligent, generous and charitable and is a valuable laborer in Sunday-school and church work.

 H. KING, proprietor of the roller mills at Liberty Center, was born in Stokes County, North Carolina, May 3, 1822, son of Johnson and Margaret (Stanley) King. When he was about eight years of age his parents removed to Delaware County, this State, where his father entered land from the Government. Both parents died the following summer, about one month apart, leaving six children, our subject being the youngest. In the fall of 1837 he and his elder brother, Johnson, came to Wells County, where Johnson entered eighty acres of land from the Government on sections 21 and 22, Liberty Township. They were the third family in the township. They unloaded their goods under an oak tree and immediately began to clear a place on which to build their log cabin. In 1843 this brother died. G. H. was then in his twenty-first year, and had previously purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land on section 27, Liberty Township, where he began clearing a farm for himself and lived there until 1857. February 25, 1841, he was married to Miss Susan Mendenhall, daughter of Benjamin and Margery Mendenhall, who was born in Miami County, Ohio, and came to Wells County in 1839. In 1857 Mr. King sold his farm and purchased eighty acres of improved land in the same township, where he followed farming until 1865. He again sold out and purchased another farm upon which he built a saw-mill, and followed farming and milling until 1879, then removed to Liberty Center and engaged in the mercantile business. In 1882 he gave

his business into the hands of his youngest son, and erected the first flouring-mill in Liberty Center, its dimensions being 26 x 36 feet, with an engine room 18 x 30 feet. In 1887 he put in a full line of rolls with all other machinery necessary to do good work, and now manufactures first-class flour. Mr. King has held the office of township clerk seven years, magistrate four years, county commissioner three years, township trustee twelve years and several other local offices. Mr. and Mrs. King have had twelve children, ten of whom are living—Margery, wife of Saul Foust; Matilda J., who died at the age of two years; Mary E., wife of J. J. Bigbee; Benjamin J.; Emily C., wife of Adam Foust; Amanda J., wife of J. L. Mills; W. H., died in infancy; W. B., also with his father in the mill as a partner; John H., a farmer of Liberty Township; Lydia, wife of Benjamin Foreman; Henry, a merchant of Liberty Center, and Laura, at home. Benjamin J. has a farm of eighty acres besides his milling interests. Politically Mr. King affiliates with the Democratic party. He has been a resident of Liberty Township over fifty years, and has secured the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

 BRAM SIMMONS, of the firm of Dailey, Mock & Simmons, attorneys at law, Bluffton, was born in Randolph County, Indiana, and removed with his parents to Wells County, where he received the rudiments of a common school education in the district schools of Wells County. He afterward entered the Fort Wayne College in 1880, in which institution of learning he received his education. He commenced reading law with Messrs. Dailey & Mock in the month of April, 1882, and was admitted to

practice at the Bluffton bar November 30, 1884, entered into a partnership with the above-named gentlemen on the first day of January, 1886, since which time he has been a member of the law firm of Dailey, Mock & Simmons, of Bluffton, Indiana, in which city he now resides.

JOHN C. BAUMGARTNER is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Harrison Township in December, 1854, a son of Christian and Catherine (Lehman) Baumgartner, natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland. His father was first married in Wayne County, Ohio, and with his family removed to Wells County, Indiana, where his wife died, leaving seven children. In 1852 he married Mrs. Catherine Baumgartner, widow of John Baumgartner, to whom she was married in Switzerland, and after his death with her two sons, Jacob and Cleophas, came to America. The first named enlisted in the war of the Rebellion and served nearly three years. He was wounded at the battle of Nashville, Tennessee, and was captured, and taken to Libby prison, where he died. Cleophas practiced medicine a number of years, and then became a minister of the gospel, and is now living at Elkhart, Indiana. John C. Baumgartner was reared in his native township, remaining at home until 1880, when he left the farm, and until 1884 was engaged in manufacturing lumber. In 1884 he lost his left arm by an accident in his mill, and was obliged to seek other employment. After his recovery he was employed as agent for a publishing house for a time, and in the spring of 1886 began clerking for Justus, Clark & Beil, hardware dealers at Bluffton, remaining with them a short time, when he engaged in the abstract

business. In November, 1886, he was elected recorder of Wells County, his duties beginning in November, 1887. Mr. Baumgartner was married December 26, 1878, to Mary A. Ashbacher, daughter of John and Anna (Schene) Ashbacher, of French Township, Adams County. They have two children—Charles Edwin and Oron Winfield. Mr. and Mrs. Baumgartner are members of the English Reform church at Bluffton. Mr. Baumgartner in politics is a Democrat. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 1,838, K. of H.

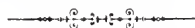
GEORGE W. HUFFMAN, a son of John and Susannah (Myers) Huffin, is a native of Indiana, born in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, January 27, 1847. His father, John Huffin, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, a son of Jacob Huffin, one of the earliest pioneers of Clarke County. John Huffin was reared in Clarke County to a farm life, and was there married to Susannah Myers, who was also a native of Clarke County, her parents coming to that county from Virginia in an early day. In 1846 the parents of our subject removed by team to Indiana and located on a tract of eighty acres in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, which Mr. Huffin had purchased about two years before. Their land was then in a state of nature, being thickly covered with timber. While Mr. Huffin was clearing a part of his land and erecting his pole cabin, he and his wife lived with his brother Henry, who lived across the line in Wells County. This cabin was built with a weight pole roof and four foot clapboards, and stood on his land about eight years, but during this time he had built a hewed log house, and in 1859 he erected a

good two-story frame house. Mr. Huffman and family experienced many of the privations and hardships which usually fall to the lot of the pioneer. Game was very plentiful, but he was no hunter, and never owned a gun, a rare thing for an early settler. He died in September, 1861, aged fifty years. In politics he was a life-long Democrat. He was a member of the German Baptist church, having joined it about three years before his death. His widow is also a member of the same church. She is still living on the old homestead at the age of seventy-one years. George W., the subject of this sketch, was reared in his native county, remaining on the old homestead until coming to Wells County in 1870. He was united in marriage November 5, 1868, to Miss Sarah C. Neff, who was born in Liberty Township, Wells County, in 1850, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Neff. Of the three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Huffman one son, Osear, is deceased. Those living are named—Ella May and Charles Wayne, the latter being called Wayne in honor of Anthony Wayne, who was a distant relative of his mother. In the fall of 1870 Mr. and Mrs. Huffman settled on eighty acres of land in Wells County. He had owned the land some two years previous, and before coming here had made a small clearing and put up a hewed log house into which they removed, and in the spring of 1883 he erected their present residence. He has cleared fifty-five acres on that place and underdrained it, making it a valuable farm. They now own about 113 acres of land, lying in Jackson and Chester townships, which property has been acquired by persevering industry and good management. Both Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are members of the United Brethren church at Mount Zion, of which he is steward. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party, and has held the office of

supervisor, and is at present a member of the Wells County Democratic Central Committee.

PATRICK McCaffrey, deceased, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in the year 1845, and was a son of James and Lizzie (Irvin) McCaffrey. He was reared in his native country until attaining his eighteenth year, when he immigrated with his father's family to America. The father had come to America seven years before, and worked on his farm of 120 acres which he had entered in Chester Township, Wells County, Indiana, until he returned for his family. After coming to this country they located in Dayton, Ohio, and after remaining there about three weeks Patrick and his father came to Fort Wayne, leaving the rest of the family in Dayton. They came on foot from Fort Wayne to Wells County to inspect their future home in Chester Township, which the father had improved from a state of nature, and later brought his family here. Thinking his farm too small for his family he located on a larger one belonging to his brother John, who lived in Piqua, Ohio. James McCaffrey died March 17, 1882. His widow still survives, and is now a resident of Morris County, Kansas. Patrick McCaffrey, our subject, was united in marriage November 6, 1868, to Miss Catharine Meelan, a native of Ireland, born in County Donegal, a daughter of Patrick and Winnifred (McGroaty) Meelan, of whom her mother died in Ireland. Her father afterward came to America and died in Springfield, Ohio. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McCaffrey, named as follows—Lizzie, James, Charles, Mary, Annie and William. Mr. McCaffrey resided in Wells County

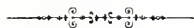
from the time he first located here until his death, which occurred January 28, 1884. In 1871 he purchased eighty acres of land in Chester Township, which is still occupied by his widow. He was a kind and affectionate husband and father, and a good neighbor, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.



JOHN A. WALKER is one of the few men that were born and reared in Wells County. His parents were Leonard S. and Melinda (Davis) Walker, who came to Rush County, this State, while yet unmarried. Leonard was born in North Carolina, son of John Walker, also born in that State, and when he settled in Rush County in 1821 had his second wife with him. John brought several children of his first marriage with him—William, Leonard, James, John, Meredith, Hiram, Elizabeth, Mary and Sarah. William is the only one living in this county. Leonard was married in Rush County before he became a resident of Wells County, in 1846. He was one of the early settlers of this neighborhood, locating first on the northeast quarter of section 4, which he entered. The village of Zanesville was laid out upon this land March 4, 1849, by himself and his brother James, and quite a flourishing village grew upon the site. Two daughters were born in Rush County before Leonard and his wife came to this county—Mary, now Mrs. Jacob Deaner, and Sarah, wife of Edwin Rich, of Fort Wayne. Nine children were born in this county—John A., who married Allie Austin; Nancy, wife of Calhoun McBride; Elias, who married Ella M. Brubaker; Jennie, wife of Oscar Young; Emanuel, deceased; Frank, who married Jennie Dorsie, and Allie, Dora and Emma, who live with

their parents, who have been residents of Fort Wayne for the last ten years. After remaining on his land for about seven years, he sold and purchased land on section 12, Union Township, this county. In 1876 he removed to Fort Wayne, having accumulated a competency. He served as county commissioner four terms. John A. Walker, our subject, was married to Miss Allie Austin, January 1, 1874, Rev. T. M. Burnan performing the marriage ceremony. Her father, Dr. C. B. Austin, was formerly a physician at Noblesville, Indiana, and came to Zanesville, this county, in 1870, where he practiced his profession a number of years, during which time he was elected by the Democratic party to the General Assembly from Allen County. After his term expired he removed to Bluffton, where his wife died June 24, 1877. After a short time the doctor removed to Indianapolis, where he engaged in the insurance business. While a resident of that city he married Mrs. Joanna Brown, whose first husband was a banker of Hoopston, Illinois. They reside at Veedersburg, this State, where the doctor practices medicine. To his first marriage were born seven children—Thomas B., Allie, Josephine, Orlando, Della, Elmer E. and Edward K. Thomas B. was a soldier in the late war, enlisting when eighteen years of age in a cavalry regiment, and serving during the entire war. After his return he began the practice of dentistry, which he still continues. John A. attended school at Roanoke, Indiana, and at Toledo, Ohio, then began teaching in this county and taught ten consecutive winters, the last three terms being after his marriage. In 1878 he was elected township trustee, serving one term. In 1880 he purchased his present farm, and he and his wife began their married life in the old log cabin which still stands north of and adjoining

the farm of John Cass. It was the first forty-acre tract owned by our subject in Wells County. His present farm was one of the first farms cleared in this township, and was at that time owned by Samuel B. Caley, Esq., one of the first settlers in the neighborhood. Mr. Walker built a handsome country residence, modern style, in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have one son—Earlie J., born February 20, 1880. Mrs. Walker was born in New Paris, Preble County, Ohio, March 5, 1849, and Mr. Walker in Union Township, this county, March 1, 1847.



WILLIAM BUMGARNER, of Harrison Township, was born in Mason County, West Virginia, July 12, 1837. His father, Samuel Bumgarner, was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, son of David Bumgarner, who was probably born in Germany, and when a boy his parents emigrated to Mason County, where he was reared on a farm, and married Rebecca Oliver, a daughter of Thomas Oliver, who came from Greenbrier County, Virginia, to Mason County, when quite young. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his father served in the Revolutionary war and also in the war of 1812. After his marriage he settled upon a farm in Mason County, and followed farming during the remainder of his days. His eleven children all lived to be grown and married. He died in 1850, aged fifty-six years, and his wife died in 1884, aged eighty-nine years. Our subject was reared on a farm in Mason County and lived with his mother until the breaking out of the civil war. He was one of the first to go forth in defense of union and liberty. He and one brother were the only ones in their

precinct who had the courage to vote for Abraham Lincoln, this being his first presidential vote. He enlisted June 5, 1861, in Company A, Fourth Virginia Infantry, but did not need to get far from home to find war, as he was in the midst of continual skirmishing. He participated in the battle of Charleston and siege of Vicksburg. When a call was made for a storming party, he was the only one of his company who volunteered. He carried a board in front of him, which was pierced with fifteen bullets. He was one of a few that returned to his command. His regiment was one that crossed the river on pontoon boats to capture the pickets, and met with a very narrow escape. He was the third man who reached the summit of Mission Ridge. During this winter his health was very poor and he obtained a furlough. He served three years and one month, and was honorably discharged July 4, 1864, having never been under arrest, or in the guard-house except when on duty. He contracted diseases from exposure and hardships, from which he never recovered. After the war he returned to his home in West Virginia, where he followed the carpenter's trade until June, 1872. He was married August 31, 1862, to A. L. Armitage, daughter of George and Maria Armitage. In June, 1872, he came West with his wife and four children, coming with a two-horse team. His father-in-law accompanied them to Southern Kansas, remaining in Emporia for a time, then returned and settled near Bluffton, this county, where he has since followed the carpenter's trade in connection with farming. Mr. and Mrs. Bumgarner have had nine children, seven of whom are living—Frances A., wife of Charles Cole; Marion W., John C., Reazin H., Mattie E., Clara E. and Ira E. Mary and Maudie (twins) died in infancy. Mrs. Bumgarner is a member of

the Christian church, and in politics Mr. Bungarner is an uncompromising Republican.

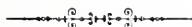
—♦♦♦—
WILLIAM GILBERT, one of the pioneers of Wells County, Indiana, and an active and enterprising farmer of Chester Township, is a native of Michigan, born near Ypsilanti May 24, 1835. His parents, William and Elizabeth (Moore) Gilbert, were natives of East Kent, England, and in 1830 immigrated to America, settling in Canada within thirty miles of Montreal. From Canada they removed to Washtenaw County, Michigan, remaining there until September, 1837, when they came to Wells County, Indiana, making the journey by team, following the Indian trail from Fort Wayne to Scuffle Creek. Here the family settled in Chester Township, section 30, on a tract of 264 acres of timber land, which the father had purchased the winter before. The first three weeks after their arrival in the county they camped on Henry McCulluch's place, he being their nearest neighbor. While engaged in running off the line of the land the father cut his foot severely, which laid him up and he was obliged to hire a space cleared on his land for the erection of his cabin, and also to have his cabin built for him. Although game was very plentiful in the early days of the county, Mr. Gilbert was no hunter, but devoted all his time to clearing and improving his land. The first winter spent in the county he bought thirteen deer, and hauled all his provision from the Griffin Mill on Walnut Creek, about twenty or twenty-five miles distant, being obliged to make a road to get there. The wheat was ground in those days, but not bolted, and all the flour used then was unbolted. The father

died June 16, 1850, the mother surviving until July 4, 1860. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are living—Eleanor, wife of Isaac Bonham, of Lawrence County, Indiana; John, William, and Eliza, now Mrs. Miller. Of those deceased two died after reaching maturity—Ann, wife of William Sargison, and Elizabeth, wife of George Graves, and Thomas in his infancy. William Gilbert, the subject of this sketch, was in his third year when brought by his parents to Wells County, and was reared in Chester Township. He received his early education in the subscription schools, and for a couple of years had the advantage of the public schools. February 9, 1859, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Hammond, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Joseph and Judith (Henson) Hammond. Her parents were born, reared and married on the Guernsey Island, off the north coast of France. After coming to America they lived at Nelsonville, Ohio, and in 1856 her mother removed with her family to Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, her father having died when she was but two years old. Her mother subsequently settled in Chester Township, where she died November 14, 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert have had born to them ten children—Donglass Gilbert, born February 19, 1860; Mary Emeline, born December 25, 1862; James B. McCillan, November 10, 1863, married Catherine Ann Moffitt; Lois A., June 8, 1865; Cora A., February 5, 1867; Francis M., January 20, 1868; Matilda E., April 1, 1871; Herbert, August 30, 1872; Herschel E., April 2, 1874; Martha Alice, August 23, 1876. Mary E. died April 30, 1864, and Donglass October 21, 1865. Mr. Gilbert has resided on the land entered from the Government since coming to Wells County, and still lives in the old house erected by his father in 1842. In politics he affiliates with



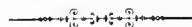
E. R. Wilson

the Democratic party. He has served his township as supervisor for several terms. He is a member of Five Points Grange, No. 522, Patrons of Husbandry. John Gilbert, the brother of our subject, who shares with him the old homestead, was born in East Kent, England, June 19, 1827, and followed the fortunes of his parents from the time of their removal from England until the time of their death, and has ever since then lived on the old home farm. His school days were spent at Ypsilanti, Michigan, although he attended school after coming to Wells County. Politically he is a Democrat, and in the early days of the county held the office of constable. He is a member of Five Points Grange, of which he is Doorkeeper. His parents were Episcopalians in their religious faith, but there being no church of that denomination in this community, they joined the Methodist church.



FRON. EDWIN RUTHVEN WILSON, a prominent and influential citizen of Wells County, and member of the law firm of Wilson & Todd, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, the date of his birth being January 14, 1827. His father's family came from the northern part of Ireland, and his father, John Wilson, was a soldier with General Harrison on the frontier, and participated in the battle of Fort Meigs, on the Maumee River. His mother, Anna B. (Geary) Wilson, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, removing with her parents to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1800, where her family resided during the war of 1812. Our subject's grandfather Geary was a soldier under Washington during the Revolutionary war. In the spring of 1840 Edwin R. Wilson came with his father's family to LaGrange County,

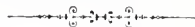
Indiana, and there he attended the common schools for a time, and subsequently was a student for three years at the Asbury University at Greencastle, Indiana. He read law with ex-Governor Joseph A. Wright, and began the practice of his chosen profession at Bluffton in the spring of 1851. He was elected and re-elected prosecuting attorney for the circuit extending as far as the Michigan line, serving in that capacity nearly four years, and while so engaged prosecuted several very important criminal causes, noted among these being the case against William H. Logan for the murder of John Frybaek in Wells County, and Keifer, Madden and Romine for the murder of Dunbar in a lumber-yard at Fort Wayne. Mr. Wilson so well performed the duties of that office that, in 1858, he was elected circuit judge for six years, and at the expiration of his term of office he was appointed bank examiner for Indiana, serving as such two years. He removed to Jefferson County, Indiana, in the spring of 1867. In 1878 he was elected State Senator for four years, and at the end of his term, in 1883, he returned to Wells County, Indiana, and has since then been actively engaged in the practice of law with Jacob J. Todd under the firm name of Wilson & Todd. Judge Wilson is a man of strict integrity, honorable in all his dealings, and has by his genial manners made many warm friends, and is well respected throughout the community in which he makes his home.



JAMES STOOPS, harness-maker, at Tocsin, was born in Waynesburgh, Greene County, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1838, son of James and Mary (Smalley) Stoops, also natives of Greene County. In

1839 the family removed to near Morgantown, West Virginia, and in 1852 made a location in Adams County, this State, remaining there until the death of the mother, which occurred in 1854. The father is still a resident of Decatur, Indiana. To them were born nine children—Rebecca, the eldest daughter, married Simon L. Boyer, and remained in West Virginia; Margaret is the wife of G. W. Menefee; Edward married Margaret Martin; James, Jr.; Maria, deceased, wife of Abram Studabaker; Sarah J., wife of N. Blackburn, editor of the *Decatur Democrat*; William G. H., deceased; George C., who married Belle Pease, and Joseph A., who married Inez Shaffer, of Bluffton. With the exception of William, who is deceased, all married in Wells and Adams counties. At the age of sixteen our subject began to take an active interest in politics. At twenty-one he was elected constable, serving two years. In April, 1862, he received the nomination of the Democratic party of Adams County for sheriff. He declined the nomination and enlisted as a private in Company K, Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry. At the organization of the regiment Mr. Stoops was elected Second Lieutenant of his company. Illness compelled his resignation ten months later, and he returned home hoping to regain his shattered health. In 1866 he became the Democratic candidate for sheriff of Adams County, and was elected in the autumn of that year. His official acts were so satisfactory that he was re-elected, and at the close of his second term was appointed assessor of Washington Township. He also served as deputy sheriff under David King, and later engaged in the manufacture of harness in Decatur. In 1886 he left Adams County and located in Toesin. He opened a shop and began the manufacture of harness. He was the first of his trade to

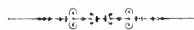
locate in the village. A destructive fire broke out and swept away two business houses with their contents, in the upper story of which was the shop of Mr. Stoops. The whole stock of all the men was swept away by this fire, and there was no insurance. He was appointed station agent of the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad soon afterward, having purchased a lot and erected a new building. Mr. and Mrs. Stoops had one son, now foreman of the Decatur *Democrat* office. Mrs. Stoops died while her husband was away serving his country. Mr. Stoops' second wife was formerly Victoria Sheneman. They have had two sons—one died in infancy and the other was drowned when eleven years of age. His third wife was Jennie Busby. Eleven years has Mr. Stoops served the people of Adams County in an official capacity, all of which has been done faithfully and well.



JACOB VANDERSAUL KENAGY, of the milling firm of J. V. Kenagy & Brother, proprietors of the Bluffton Hydraulic and Steam Flouring Mills, is a native of Wayne County, Ohio, born near Dalton, September 2, 1835. His father being a farmer, he was reared to the same avocation, receiving his education at the common schools of his neighborhood, and at the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, where he spent two years. At the age of eighteen years he came to Wells County, his parents having preceded him while he was attending college at Delaware, Ohio. On his arrival he was employed as clerk in the store of John Studabaker, of Bluffton, where he remained one year. He was then engaged in working on his father's farm and in teaching school until April 19, 1861, when, on the first call for men by President Lincoln,

he enlisted in the Union army as a private to serve three months. He was assigned to Company G, Twelfth Indiana Infantry, and was on duty at Washington, D. C. At the expiration of his term of service, by request of Governor Morton, his term was extended nine months, and after being in the service one year he was discharged at Washington in May, 1862. He then returned to Bluffton, and the following July re-enlisted as a private in the three years' service, in Company K, Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and was discharged at Chattanooga, Tennessee, at the close of the war by general order of the War Department at Washington, D. C. When his company was organized he was chosen First Sergeant and served as such until 1863, when he was detailed as Hospital Steward at Louisville, Kentucky, in which capacity he served during the winter of 1863-'64, when being relieved he returned to his company and regiment and again acted as First Sergeant until the latter part of 1864, when he was detailed as clerk of the Medical Director of the Post at Chattanooga, serving as such until receiving his discharge. After the war he returned to Bluffton, and until July, 1866, he was employed as bookkeeper and an assistant in the hardware store of his father and M. H. Gettel. October 17, 1866, he was married to Margaret Ann Johnston, of Wells County, who died at Woodhull, Illinois, August 4, 1870, leaving a daughter named Kittie. Mrs. Kenagy, at the time of her death, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Woodhull. Mr. Kenagy removed to Woodhull, Illinois, in 1866, where he was engaged in dealing in hardware and farm implements, being associated with his father and Mr. Gettel, the firm name being Gettel & Kenagy, the store at Woodhull being a branch of the main business at Bluffton. In 1871, his father having died, he discontinued

the business at Woodhull and returned to Bluffton, where he continued in the hardware business under the firm name of Gettel & Kenagy. In 1872 they enlarged their business, adding produce, grain and farm implements, and also purchased a flour mill at Bluffton. On the death of Mr. Gettel in 1874 the firm of Gettel & Kenagy was changed to J. V. Kenagy & Brothers, Joshua and John W. Kenagy becoming associated with our subject. They discontinued their hardware business in 1875, and in 1878 John W. Kenagy retired from the firm, when the firm was changed to J. V. Kenagy & Brother. J. V. Kenagy and daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bluffton, and he has been the leader of Class No. 1 since 1872. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 1838, K. of H., in which he has served two years as chaplain. He is a comrade of Lew Dailey Post, No. 33, G. A. R., and is at present chaplain of the post.



GEORGE BRICKLEY, deceased, was a native of the State of Pennsylvania, and when a young man removed to Trumbull County, Ohio, where he made his home for many years. He was married in Trumbull County, to Miss Belinda Wolfeale, a native of that county. To them were born ten children, all of whom came with them to Wells County, Indiana, in 1851. Their eldest daughter, Mary, is the wife of Abram Woodward and now lives in Ossian, Wells County; Peter is a prosperous farmer of Lancaster Township; Alfred resides in Rock Creek Township; Elizabeth married Harrison Taylor, and both died in Rock Creek Township; Mrs. Nancy Jane Ogden resides in Bluffton; John died in early manhood; Lewis is a prominent business man of Bluffton;

Wesley resides at Markle, in Huntington County; Mrs. Isabella Ziak lives in Union Township, and Mrs. Laura Allen lives at Markle. On coming to Wells County with his family Mr. Brickley, located on section 1, Rock Creek Township, where he improved a farm on which he resided about fifteen years. He then sold his homestead and bought land near Markle, Huntington County, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1878 at the age of sixty-seven years. His widow still survives, and is making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Allen, at Markle.

LEWIS A. BRICKLEY, senior member of the hardware firm of L. A. Brickley & Sons, of Bluffton, was born near Warren, in Trumbull County, Ohio, April 29, 1842, a son of George and Belinda (Wolfeale) Brickley, the father being of German ancestry and the latter of English descent. The father is now deceased. L. A. Brickley, our subject, was brought by his parents to Wells County, Indiana, - in June, 1851. He was reared to the avocation of a farmer, remaining on the home farm till he grew to manhood. He was united in marriage July 28, 1864, to Miss Catherine Lesh, a daughter of John and Harriet (McAfee) Lesh. She died at Bluffton, March 27, 1879, leaving five children—George Mervin, Thomas Jefferson, Cora A., Peter Francis and Jennie Etta. At her death Mrs. Brickley was a member of the Rock Creek Lutheran Church. Mr. Brickley was again married January 4, 1881, to Miss Flora A. Stonebrook, of Bluffton. Mr. Brickley was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, enlisting as a private in 1864, in Company D, Fifty-first Indiana Infantry. He was engaged in the two days' fight in front of Nashville and also participated in several

skirmishes. May 21, 1865, he was discharged for disability caused by a wound received in front of Nashville, December 16, 1864. After his discharge he returned to Wells County, where he was engaged in farming in Rock Creek Township until 1876. He then removed to Bluffton and became associated with Samuel Lesh in the hardware business, under the firm name of Lesh & Brickley. In 1883 John E. Beil succeeded Mr. Lesh, when the firm name was changed to Brickley & Beil. In November, 1885, Mr. Beil was succeeded by Mr. Brickley's sons, George M. and Thomas J., when the present firm of L. A. Brickley & Sons was formed. Mr. Brickley is a member of the Lutheran and his wife a member of the Baptist church.

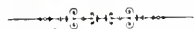
WILLIAM CLARK, general farmer, Chester Township, and one of the early settlers of Wells County, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, March 16, 1832, a son of William and Christina (Cook) Clark, natives of Pennsylvania, the father of Irish and the mother of Dutch descent. They were married in their native State, and subsequently removed to Wayne County, where they made their home until about the year 1838. They then started for Indiana by teams, locating in Fayette County, where they remained one year, coming thence to Wells County, settling in Chester Township, where the father had entered 129 acres of land the year previous. The land was entirely unimproved, and heavily covered with timber, he being obliged to clear a space to build his log cabin, into which the family removed the following February. This house is still standing on the land now owned and occupied by our subject, and is probably the oldest house in the county. Wild animals

roamed the country, and the howling of the wolves around the pioneer's cabin was an almost nightly occurrence. Mr. Clark did much toward improving his land, but did not live to enjoy it, his death occurring in 1849. His widow survived him a number of years, dying about the year 1873. William Clark, the subject of this sketch, was a lad of seven years when brought by his parents to Wells County, and here he was reared, passing through all the incidents of pioneer life. He was early in life inured to hard work, helping his father clear and improve his land, but the lessons of persevering industry learned in those days have been of lasting benefit to him. He has always lived on the land where his father first settled in Wells County, and has witnessed the wilderness change into well cultivated fields and prosperous towns and villages. He was united in marriage November 24, 1855, to Miss Elizabeth Twibell, a daughter of David and Margaret Twibell, and of the five children born to this union three are living—Amanda Ellen, wife of Percival Johnson; Allison married Mattie Angeline Shreve, and Martha Jane. Emerson and Margaret Emeline are deceased. Mrs. Clark died February 5, 1872, and June 16, 1874, Mr. Clark was married to Miss Elizabeth Limerick, a native of Sandy Township, Stark County, Ohio, and daughter of Commodore C. and Harriet (Yahne) Limerick, her mother being a native of Ohio. Her parents removed from Ohio to Huntington County, Indiana, thence to Wells County, where the father died March 30, 1876. The mother is still living in Chester Township. Mrs. Clark is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church. In his political views Mr. Clark is a Democrat. He is a public spirited citizen, and has served his township as supervisor. He is a member of Five Points Grange, No. 522, Patrons of Illus-

bandry, and has held the office of gate-keeper of his grange several times. He is a member of Wells County Pomona Grange.

 ALEXANDER DELONG, one of the old pioneers of Wells County, was born in Botetourt County, Virginia, April 17, 1809, and died at his home in Lancaster Township, April 25, 1881. He was married near Fletcher, in Miami County, Ohio, in 1832, to Miss Elizabeth Beers, a native of Montgomery County, Ohio, a daughter of Peter and Mary (Shanks) Beers, who were among the earliest settlers of that county. They began housekeeping in Miami County, where three children, named Asa, Solomon and George, were born to them. In the fall of 1847 Mr. DeLong came with his wife and children from Miami to Wells County, settling on a heavily timbered farm on section 34, Lancaster Township. Here he erected a log cabin the same fall, felled the trees and prepared the land for crops for the following year. The first patch cleared was three acres which he planted in fruit trees in the spring of the next year, and year by year the improvements were more manifest until he had his farm under thorough cultivation, which is now in possession of his son Solomon. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. DeLong after coming to Wells County—Joseph, a book dealer of Bluffton, and Mary A., deceased wife of Charles Cole. The father lived on the old homestead until his death, and reared his family to honorable and respectable status in life, and earned the respect and esteem of the entire community. He came to the county in limited circumstances, having only enough money to enter 160 acres of land, which cost him \$200. The original patent bore the signature of Presi-

dent Martin Van Buren, and was dated August 5, 1837. The widow still resides on the home farm. Mr. DeLong was a member of the Baptist church during the latter years of his life. All the children living are married except Solomon, who has charge of the home farm, and the fine appearance of the buildings, stock, and ground show him to be a systematic and successful farmer. In politics, like his father, he has always affiliated with the Republican party. Solomon DeLong was one of the loyal men of Wells County who left the peaceful pursuits of farm life to defend his country. He enlisted in August, 1862, in the One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, under Captain Peter Studabaker, and his regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. Mr. DeLong was assigned to duty in the Pioneer Corps, and did faithful and meritorious service until the close of the war. His brother George was also a gallant and faithful soldier, serving three years in the Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry.

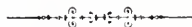


JONATHAN MICHAEL, hotel-keeper, at Zanesville, was born in Germany, in the village of Sults-am-Neckar. The village was noted for its salt manufactories. The village derived its name from the Neckar River which passed through it. Jonathan was born November 16, 1832, son of John G. and Mary (Smith) Michael, natives of Germany. John G. was born in Sults and his wife in Rosenfeldt, nine miles distant. Mr. Michael possesses an interesting photograph of his native village. There were three children born before their immigration to America—John C., Gottleip and Jonathan, the latter at that time being eighteen months old. The family located at Shep-

herdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia, in 1834. John G. was a cloth shearer by trade, and at once engaged with George Price at his factory at Shepherdstown. When Jonathan was eleven years old his parents removed to Williamsport, Washington County, Maryland, where the father engaged as cook on the "company's boat," running on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, remaining several years in their employ. Afterward the parents removed to Clear Spring, Maryland, where the mother was accidentally drowned in a spring on their own premises. Seven of their children were born in America—Mary V. and Henry H. were born in Shepherdstown, Virginia, and both are residents of Canton, Illinois; Mary married Joseph Irely, a mechanic, and Henry, also a mechanic, married Mary McQuade, of Canton. George W., William H. and Catherine M. were born in Williamsport, and are buried there. After the death of his wife, John G. married Catherine Lindamon. They were engaged in business at Clear Spring until 1863, and then their son Jonathan, our subject, brought them to the town where he had become a prosperous man, and where the father died in his seventy-seventh year. The mother is living at Zanesville, aged sixty-four years. Jonathan learned the shoemaker's trade in Clear Spring, with Darlington & Turnbolt. He was only twenty-two years of age when he came West to seek his own fortune. Jonathan heard of the new town while stopping at Fort Wayne, and having an opportunity to work at his trade with William P. Wilson, arrived in the spring of 1854, with \$5 cash in his pocket. Three months later he began business for himself, and ever since that time has been actively engaged in business in the village. He was prosperous from the beginning, and after a lapse of thirty years Mr. Michael finds himself rich in the

enjoyment of his family and the esteem of his friends. In 1856 he purchased the tannery that was owned and operated by W. P. Wilson, which he conducted more than a quarter of a century and at the same time carried on an extensive boot and shoe manufactory. During the war he employed several hands, but never introduced machinery into the business. The tannery produced about 2,000 hides and skins per annum, and the products over what he used in his shoe-shop were sent to Johnson, Eaton & Co., Boston, Massachusetts. In 1864 Mr. Michael purchased the Nelson Jarvis farm, one mile south of Zanesville, which he still owns, and has since made other additions to the original purchase. He also purchased the Enoch Sink and F. M. Wilson farms one-fourth of a mile south of Zanesville, and he now owns 220 acres of valuable land. January 29, 1855, he was married to Miss Sarah A. Kline, only daughter of Jonas Kline, Joseph Beatty, J. P., performing the ceremony. Her parents are deceased. In 1861 Mr. Michael purchased the hotel property and has conducted it ever since. The Zanesville House is celebrated for its neatness and the elaborate menu which greets the weary traveler. Their children are—John Barrett, named in honor of the president of St. James College, Maryland, Amanda V., Juniata, Arbelan M., Almisa H. and Sarah J. The death of Mrs. Michael occurred October 1, 1865. She was a loving mother and one of the best of wives. She was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, October 5, 1833. Mr. Michael has never married again. John B. is now engaged in the mercantile and drug business at Zanesville. He married Laura Wilkinson, who is of English ancestry. They have two children—Talmage V. and Lulu P. He is postmaster at Zanesville. Amanda is the wife of D. W. Simmers, a farmer of Allen County.

They have five sons—Jonathan U., Daniel D., Charles W., Jewell and Roseoe T. Arbelan is the wife of Elve C. Kelsey, a dealer in meats in Zanesville; their children are—Dessie E. and Glendale. Besides rearing his own children he has practically reared three nephews, Jonathan A., William H. and Harvey B. Michael. They are sons of his brother Christopher, who married Mary A. Beaver. They have had six children, the three mentioned and Annie, Alido and Agnes.



LEWIS HUFFMAN, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Jackson Township, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, the date of his birth being June 6, 1844. When two years of age he was taken by his parents, John and Susannah (Myers) Huffman, to Huntington County, Indiana, and there he grew to manhood, being reared to the avocation of a farmer, which he has made his life-work. January 4, 1868, he was married to Miss Miami Monnsey, a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Liberty Township, a daughter of John and Caroline (Stratton) Monnsey. Her mother died when she was a child of ten years, and her father died April 30, 1886. They were among the early settlers of Wells County, and Mr. Monnsey saw the transformation of the county from a wilderness into its present condition. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Huffman—David P., John Scott, Franklin C. and one who died in infancy. David P., their eldest son, was educated in the schools of his township and at Bluffton, and when only thirteen years old passed the necessary examination and received a teacher's certificate. Mr. Huffman lived with his mother in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, until one year after his marriage, when he re-

moved to Jackson Township, Wells County, settling there in January, 1869, on a tract of eighty acres which he had bought. His land when he settled on it was covered with a heavy growth of timber except the small space he had cleared on which he erected the hewed-log cabin, which is still standing. He resided in this cabin until 1881, when he erected his present residence, which was built with a view to comfort and convenience. He has added to his original purchase until his home farm now consists of 117 acres, all with the exception of about eighteen acres being cleared and improved, the result of years of toil and persevering energy. In politics Mr. Hurlman is identified with the Democratic party. He and his wife are members of the German Baptist church, and he is a deacon in the church of that denomination at Sugar Grove.

LUTHER B. SIMMONS, attorney at law, was born in Nottingham Township, this county, in 1860, son of Hiram L. Simmons, of Nottingham Township. After completing a course of study at the Methodist Episcopal college at Fort Wayne he studied law in the office of E. C. Vaughn, at Bluffton, and was admitted to the bar in 1883, since which time he has been practicing law here, excepting the three winters he has taught school in his native township. His office at present is with Mr. Vaughn.

SETH DOUGLAS BEAVERS, M. D., of Toesin, was born in Hocking County, Ohio, and came with his parents, Samuel D. and Lydia (Weldy) Beavers, to Adams County, Indiana, in 1863. He received his

education principally at Fort Wayne, and completed it at Valparaiso, this State, in 1881. He began the study of medicine with Dr. B. R. Freeman, of Decatur, Indiana, and matriculated at Rush Medical College, of Chicago, in 1883, attending three courses of lectures. He graduated February 17, 1886. He was employed at the city hospitals of Chicago two years, as nurse, prior to his graduation. His last college year he officiated as assistant to Dr. Thomas J. Shaw, Professor of Clinical Gynecology at the West Side Free Dispensary, Chicago. The doctor settled in Toesin in the spring of 1886, and has since had an excellent practice.

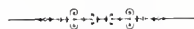
JAMES P. HALE, the present efficient mayor of Bluffton, and a public-spirited and enterprising citizen of Wells County, was born in Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, April 15, 1846. When about twelve years of age he removed with his parents from Bluffton to the farm which is still occupied by his father, Bowen Hale. Here our subject was reared, working on the farm in the summer and attending the district school in the winter, until he was twenty-two years of age. During this time he taught one term of school of four months and also for a short time attended a private school taught by Prof. John S. McCleery. In 1868 he entered the State University at Bloomington, Indiana, where he took an active part in the literary and scientific societies, became a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, and filled all the positions of honor that the students usually have to bestow on each other. He graduated from that institution in the scientific course a Bachelor of Science in 1872. In the spring of 1872, before leaving college, he was nominated by the Demo-



James P. Hale

eratic party of his native county for the office of county surveyor, and was elected to that position the following October, but his term of office did not begin until the following June, 1873. During the winter of 1872-73 he again taught four months of school. In February, 1873, F. H. Rhodes resigned the office of surveyor, and Mr. Hale was appointed and assumed the duties of the office at once. In 1874 he was again nominated by his party as surveyor, but owing to the position which he then took on the temperance question his name was withdrawn from the regular ticket, and although he received a large vote he was not elected. At the expiration of his term as surveyor he entered the law office of Todd & Rinehart, and was shortly afterward admitted to the bar, and has since that time practiced his chosen profession, generally alone, but for a short time was in partnership with W. J. Hilligass. He served as deputy prosecuting attorney from 1876 to 1880. In October, 1884, he was elected mayor of Bluffton, to fill an unexpired term, caused by the resignation of H. L. Martin, and the following spring he was elected to the same office for a term of two years, and in May, 1887, was re-elected, and is now serving in that capacity. In his political affiliations he is a staunch Democrat. June 10, 1880, Mr. Hale was married to Miss Delia Wilson, daughter of Oscar F. and Catherine B. Wilson, formerly of Zanesville, Allen County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson moved from Coshocton County, Ohio, to Indiana, soon after their marriage, in about the year 1855. Mrs. Wilson's maiden name was Foster, and she was related to the Fosters of Coshocton County, Ohio, a numerous and highly respected family. Mr. Wilson and wife were numbered among the early settlers of Allen County, Indiana. He engaged in the mercantile business at Zanes-

ville, Delphi, and at Bluffton, Indiana. Mrs. Wilson died at her home in Bluffton in September, 1883, and Mr. Wilson at the residence of Mr. Hale in 1886, leaving two children—Delia W., the wife of the subject of our sketch, and George M., now residing with Mr. Hale. In 1875 Mr. Hale united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and is still a member of the same. He was made a Mason in 1874, and takes an active interest in the Masonic fraternity, and is also a member of Bluffton Chapter, No. 95, and was for two years high priest of that chapter and received the degree of the order of the high priesthood in 1876 at Indianapolis. Mr. Hale, like his father, is genial and unassuming in his manner, and highly respected by the people of Wells County.



ROBERT M. HEDGES, farmer and stock-raiser, Harrison Township, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 31, 1817, son of Elijah and Polly (Backsley) Hedges, natives of West Virginia. The father was a son of Charles Hedges, and of English ancestry. The mother was of German ancestry. They settled in Fairfield County in an early day and were among the pioneers of that county. Our subject was reared on a farm and educated in the subscription schools that were held in the primitive log cabin. He remained with his parents until he reached his majority, and October 22, 1840, was married to Miss Sophia Kirkwood, a native of Pennsylvania. He followed farming in his native county until the fall of 1846, then came to Indiana and purchased eighty acres of land on section 35, Harrison Township. About fourteen acres were partially cleared. He lived on this land about six years, then sold and

bought 114 acres of unimproved land on section 29, where he and three other men erected the first log cabin. He cleared and improved his new farm. He has given close attention to his business and has added to his first purchase until he now has 194 acres of well-cultivated and well-improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Hedges had thirteen children, eleven of whom are living—Mary J., Lucinda (deceased), Jonas T., Rebecca Ann, James, Elizabeth (deceased), William, Julia, Joseph, George, Lewis A., Samuel and John. Mrs. Hedges was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She died August 27, 1870, and September 10, 1874, Mr. Hedges married Martha Willason, who died March 17, 1877. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, October 31, 1879, Mr. Hedges married Mrs. Elizabeth Kennel, formerly Elizabeth Kreps, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Wells County with her parents when a girl. They have one child—Clara A. Mr. and Mrs. Hedges are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically he has always affiliated with the Democratic party.

WILLIAM HENRY BENNETT, postmaster at Bluffton, Indiana, is a native of that city, born July 31, 1853. He is the eldest of three sons, and one of nine children of Robert Collins and Harriet (Deam) Bennett. When he was four years of age his parents moved to Fort Wayne, where they lived until 1872, when they returned to Bluffton. He attended the public school at Fort Wayne while there, and after his return to Bluffton attended the public school a short time, when he engaged in the restaurant business, which he continued until 1879. He then entered the employ of G. F.

McFarren, remaining with him until January, 1886, when having received a commission as postmaster at Bluffton from Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, he assumed the duties of that office.

TOMIN BOWMAN, merchant and postmaster at Toecin, was born near Massillon, Stark County, Ohio, and came with his parents, Richard S. and Mary (Shaffer) Bowman, to Wells County in October, 1857. The family then consisted of the parents, our subject and his brother Byron. The family located on a farm near Bluffton, where the parents still reside. One daughter, Jennie, was born in this county, now the wife of Ross Cherry, and resides at the homestead. Byron married Maggie Ulmer, and is a merchant at Bluffton. Our subject was reared upon a farm, where he acquired a practical education which was completed at the Bluffton High Schools. He engaged in the mercantile trade in that city in January, 1886, and November 5 of that year he became a resident of the new village of Toecin, purchasing the stock of goods formerly owned by Samuel Kunkle. His goods in Bluffton were sold prior to his removal, to Albert Shepherd, and Mr. Bowman now devotes his time and attention to the mercantile trade in Toecin. His is the only store in the village, and he carries a large stock and does an extensive business. He was married December 27, 1876, to Elizabeth E. Williams, daughter of James S. Williams, a resident of this county, who has lived within her boundaries forty-two years. Four children have been born to this union—Harry O., Louis E., Albert and Jesse W. The latter is deceased. Mrs. Bowman died December 18, 1885, and March 17, 1887, Mr. Bowman married Eliza J. Archibold, who

was born near Toesin, Wells County. Mr. Bowman was appointed postmaster of Toesin January 31, 1886, vice Samuel Kunkle, resigned in 1886.

JAMES M. MERRIMAN, a pioneer of Liberty Township, was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1814. His father, Elijah Merriman, was born in 1788, and his mother, Mary (McCoy) Merriman, was born in 1792. The father was a native of Maryland, and a son of William Merriman, who was born in 1756. The mother was a daughter of John McCoy, who was a native of Pennsylvania and of Irish parentage. The parents removed to Wayne County, Ohio, in 1816, where our subject passed his youth in helping to clear the farm and in attending the common and subscription schools. He helped to hew the logs for the school-house in which he was educated. He was married April 6, 1847, to Miss Ann Tracy, daughter of George and Leah (McCoy) Tracy, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio, February 8, 1818; the parents were natives of Pennsylvania. In 1836 Mr. Merriman came to Indiana, where he entered eighty acres of land in Huntington County, then returned to Wayne County. In October, 1839, he removed his wife and one child to Wells County, and entered 160 acres of land on section 20, Liberty Township, where he began clearing and making a home. This was previous to the organization of the township, and there were no roads. He endured all the hardships and privations incident to the pioneer. Mr. and Mrs. Merriman are the parents of eleven children—Samantha, wife of Ruel Wright, of Huntington County; Mahala, wife of George McHaley, of

Liberty Township; Bance, of Smith County, Kansas; John, of Liberty Township; Tracy, also a resident of Liberty Township; Dallas, a resident of Huntington County; Jasper and George O., of Liberty Township; Annie, wife of Asbury Luce; Mary Leah, now Mrs. Heckman, and Alfred, who lives at home. Mr. Merriman has served as township trustee, township treasurer, and held the office of magistrate fourteen years. Mrs. Merriman is a member of the Christian church, and in politics he is a Democrat. He owns 270 acres of excellent land, all in a good state of cultivation.

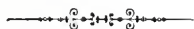
JOSEPH C. MADDOX is a native of Chester Township, Wells County, Indiana, born on the old Maddox homestead February 25, 1855, a son of Wesley Harvey and Eliza Ann (Grove) Maddox. He was reared on the home farm, receiving his education in the common schools of his township and at Bluffton. After leaving school he adopted the teacher's profession, which he followed principally for fifteen years, part of this time following the avocation of a farmer. He was united in marriage June 11, 1879, to Miss Elizabeth O. Dawson, who was also a native of Wells County, Indiana, a daughter of George Dawson, who is now living in Union City, Ohio. Mrs. Maddox lost her mother by death when she was but three years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Maddox are the parents of one child, a son named Hugh. Mr. Maddox discontinued teaching in 1884, and since that time has devoted his entire attention to farming, and has a well-cultivated farm in Chester Township. In his political views Mr. Maddox affiliates with the Republican party. He is an active and public-spirited

citizen, and always takes an interest in every enterprise which has for its object the advancement of his township or county.

JACOB R. HARVEY, son of the old pioneer, Robert Harvey, is a native of Indiana, born in Union County, April 27, 1830. His father was born near Knoxville, Tennessee, February 29, 1788, a son of Henderson and Martha (McConnell) Harvey. Henderson Harvey was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. In middle life, to be rid of slavery and its pernicious influences, he left Tennessee for Pennsylvania, and later moved to Ohio, and in 1811 removed to the then Territory of Indiana. He died at an advanced age in Union County, where he was esteemed as one of its most worthy pioneers. Robert Harvey, the father of our subject, although afflicted with partial blindness of his left eye, volunteered in the war of 1812 and served one year. He was married in 1818 to Elizabeth Richey, of Butler County, Ohio, at the home of her parents, returning to his home in Indiana the same year. Elizabeth Richey was born in New Jersey in 1794, a daughter of Jacob Richey. Seven children were born to them—William, who was a much respected citizen of Lancaster Township, is deceased; Mrs. Mary Rohr, living in Iowa; Mrs. Martha DeWitt, of Bluffton; Jacob R., whose name heads this sketch; Lorenzo D. was a member of Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, during the late war, and died in the service at Munfordville, Kentucky; John lives in Huntington County, Indiana, and Rebecca, the fourth child, died in Union County, aged three years. The parents cleared a farm in the wilderness of Union County, where they made their home until 1832. In April of that year they removed

with their family to Wells County, settling on section 18 of Lancaster Township, Robert Harvey being the fourth man to settle in what is now Wells County. The preceding winter he had become totally blind from inflammation of the eyes. He was the owner of three tracts of land in Lancaster Township, comprising about 300 acres, and possessed of personal property sufficient to give him a good start in those pioneer days. The troublesome times of 1832 (the year of the Black Hawk war) induced his brothers Samuel and John to come from Union County and move him back there. He left his stock and implements with a man named Joseph Knox, and returned with his brothers to Union County, where he spent the following winter. On returning to Wells County he found himself robbed of his stock and everything that was movable, and never recovered anything nor heard of his rascally neighbor again, but he again accumulated property and enjoyed a good home until his death, in 1853, his widow surviving him until July 12, 1877. Jacob R. Harvey, the subject of this sketch, now holds the patent of the old home given to his father, which is dated September 2, 1831, and signed by President Andrew Jackson. He has lived on this homestead, established by his parents in 1832, ever since two years of age, with the exception of the time spent in the service of his country during the war of the Rebellion. His youth was spent in toil, assisting to fell and burn the forest, clearing his father's land. At eight years of age he began attending the log cabin subscription schools, with their split log seats, greased paper lights, and stick and clay chimney, where he received his education. September 20, 1855, he was married to Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Henry Miller, who settled just opposite the present site of Murray in November, 1832. Mrs. Harvey

was born on the pioneer homestead of her father, on section 18, Lancaster Township, March 15, 1834, and was the first white child born in Wells County. To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey have been born five children—Henry, the first born, died aged three years; William occupies a farm near the homestead of his parents; Jacob lives on part of the homestead, and Robert and Charles are attending school. Mr. Harvey was a member of Company B, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, from October, 1864, until the close of the war. His regiment was a part of the Seventeenth Army Corps, and after some service in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, joined Sherman's army at Goldsboro, North Carolina. In politics Mr. Harvey is an ardent Republican. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church.



DR. RICHARD ALBRO WALDRON was born in Dover, New Hampshire, May 23, 1832, a son of Richard and Mary (Canney) Waldron. He is of English ancestry. Major Richard Waldron, the progenitor of the family in this country, coming from Somersetshire, England, settled in Dover, New Hampshire, in 1635. The Major was for many years Governor of the Colony of New Hampshire, and was an active participant in the French and Indian wars of his time. His official duties kept him in frequent contact with the red man. He finally lost his life through their treachery, being one of the victims when they, in the dead hours of night, captured the town of Dover and massacred most of its inhabitants. New Hampshire has been the home of the Waldron family since their first settlement in America, and the doctor's parents are still at this date (1887) residents of New Hampshire, being

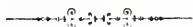
well advanced in years, each having passed the eighty-third milestone. Our subject received the ordinary education afforded by the public schools, and at the age of seventeen years commenced teaching school, in order to acquire the means of defraying the expense of a higher education. In pursuance of this plan he entered Franklin Academy, located on Waldron street, Dover, where he took his collegiate preparatory course. From there he entered Amherst College, where he took his literary course. After studying medicine the subject of this sketch located in Southern Illinois, from whence he went to Western Texas, where he remained about two years, thence returned to Southern Illinois, where he resumed the practice of his profession, remaining there until 1872, when he moved to Wells County, Indiana, locating at Nottingham in said county on the 23d day of May, 1872. The doctor was married to Miriam Griest, daughter of John and Hannah (Edmundson) Griest, at Portland, Jay County, Indiana, September 12, 1874. They have one child, a daughter, Mary R. A. Waldron, born September 22, 1875. Miriam (Griest) Waldron was born in York County, Pennsylvania, October 12, 1834, and moved to Jay County, Indiana, with her parents in 1850, arriving in said county on the 5th of May, the county then being almost a wilderness. Wolves as well as deer and other wild game were numerous. Mrs. Waldron was one of the teachers of Jay County when school-houses were built of round logs, and the clapboard roofs were held in place by weight poles instead of nails, and seats were made for the pupils by splitting a small log into two parts and boring two holes in the ends of each in which wooden legs were inserted, making a durable but uncomfortable seat. Logs were split into thick plank or puncheons for flooring. Dr. Waldron at present (1887) is en-

gaged in farming and stock-raising and running a general store at Nottingham, and has been postmaster at this place since 1883. He is also actively engaged in the practice of his profession.

MCCOY SMITH, Toesin, was born November 9, 1827, son of Nicholas and Leah (McCoy) Smith, who reared a family of three children—McCoy, Edwin and Phebe. Nicholas Smith first married Miss McFadden, and they had seven children. Leah was a widow at the time of her marriage with Mr. Smith, and the mother of eight children. Three sets of children were cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Our subject learned three trades in Ohio, but never made a business of either. In 1849 he first came to Wells County and took a claim, but through a technicality in law, he was granted a patent bearing the signature of Millard Fillmore, in 1851. Mr. Smith's paternal ancestors were German. His grandfather Nicholas was a Captain during the war of the Revolution. His great-uncle Henry was considered the best swordsman in Washington's army, under whom both served during the entire war. His grandmother was of Welsh origin. They were the parents of eighteen children, and saw the fourth generation before their death. The descendants upon whom their eyes had rested numbered 403. The grandfather died at the age of one hundred and ten and the grandmother at one hundred and fifteen. They lived and died in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, at the foot of the mountains. Our subject built a cabin on the land he first entered. Soon after his arrival he formed the acquaintance of his present wife, Miss Mary Blue, in rather a peculiar manner. In the early days neighbors

were far apart, and the young folks occasionally gathered for amusement in the cabin of some of the settlers. Mr. Smith was a bachelor, very lively, and the life and soul of the company he was in. For a joke, he proclaimed that he could tell fortunes. One evening as the family were sitting around the huge fireplace, the young people insisted upon having their fortunes told. Smith was the oracle of the evening, and when it came Miss Blue's turn, although McCoy had never spoken to her, the moment he took her hand he exclaimed, "Why, this woman will become my wife." There seemed to be an affinity, and although neither had thought of marrying, the result proved theirs to be a very harmonious union. May 17, 1855, this couple was married at the home of the bride's parents, Uriah and Rachel Blue, Rev. Wilson Donaldson performing the ceremony. Mr. Smith's maternal ancestry were of Irish origin. His grandmother was a daughter of Colonel Gaddis, of Revolutionary fame, and her husband belonged to his regiment. Thus the ancestry on both sides were "blue-bloods" and noted for loyalty to the cause of American freedom. To Colonel Gaddis is ascribed the honor of raising the first liberty-pole in the United States, a fact of which his descendants may well feel proud. He also rid the country of a notorious gang of robbers, by getting a band of picked men of his former Revolutionary force; forty robbers were killed before they made an unconditional surrender. Colonel Gaddis was in command of a regiment at Crawford's defeat, and had the latter followed the advice of Gaddis, the Indians would have been routed, with small loss. He rescued Crawford from the savages, but he was again captured and burned at the stake. Mrs. Smith's great-grandfather, Uriah Blue, was a riflemen under General Washington and one of his sharp-

shooters. He moved to Boone, Kentucky, and from there to Miami County, Ohio. Mrs. Smith's grandfather carried provisions to Wayne's army at Fort Wayne. After the marriage of Mr. Smith he settled down to real pioneer work. He cleared his land, and his love for the chase kept his larder well supplied with meats. Children came to grace their home in the wild woods—Emma Rosalie, wife of Albert Weible; Jasper N., who married Ina Belle Sowers; Serena, wife of Ivan Kleinknight; John M., and one that died in infancy. From the first, Mr. Smith predicted that a railroad would traverse this neighborhood from west to east, having walked over the ground and noted the fertile soil, and fine location for a road-bed. Therefore, he was not surprised when the thunder of the massive iron wheels reverberated through the township, nor amazed when a thrifty village sprang up almost before his eyes. The log cabin in which Mr. Smith and his wife began their married life has long since been replaced by a handsome frame building. They have been prosperous, and their prosperity is due entirely to industry, economy and good management.



ANDREW J. FOUST, an active and enterprising citizen of Jackson Township, where he resides on section 11, was born in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, Indiana, May 15, 1860, a son of Jonathan and Sarah (Nell) Foust. Jonathan Foust was born in Highland County, Ohio, of German-English descent. When he was eight or nine years old he was brought by his parents to Salamonie Township, Huntington County, they being among the first settlers of that county, and are yet living on the original homestead, the father eighty-six and the

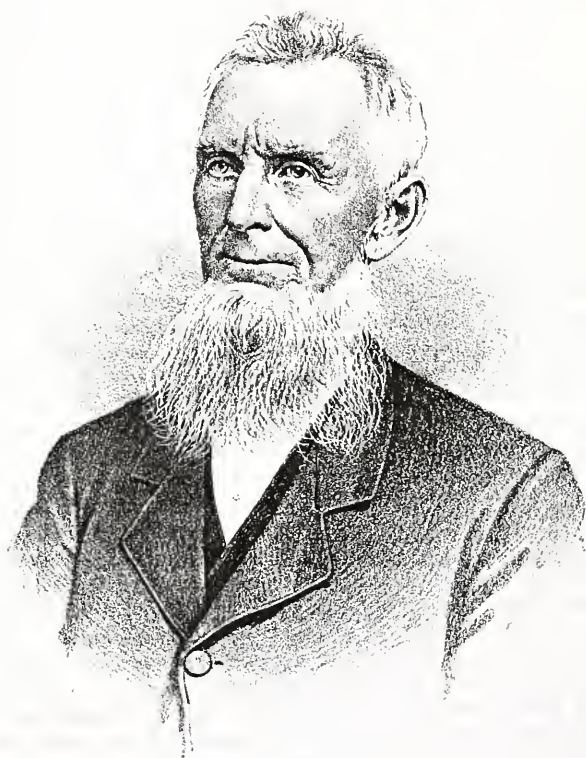
mother eighty-four years of age. Jonathan Foust was reared on the old homestead amid scenes of pioneer life, assisting in making a farm out of the forest, living with his parents until after his marriage. He then removed to a forty-acre tract of timber land which he owned in Salamonie Township, where his wife died in January, 1864. Some two or three years afterward he sold his land and bought eighty acres one mile north, which he owned about four years, when he bought 235 acres along the Salamonie River in Jackson Township, Wells County, where he lived until November, 1885. He then disposed of this land and went to Washington County, Arkansas, where he now has a farm of 170 acres, and is still engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, being a member of Company I, Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and was in the Fourteenth Army Corps. He was in all the engagements of the Atlanta campaign, and was with Sherman on his march from Atlanta to the sea and through the Carolinas to Washington, where he participated in the grand review at the close of the war. Andrew J. Foust, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Huntington and Wells counties, the last half of his life to this time being spent in Jackson Township. He received his education in the schools of Jackson Township, completing his studies at Bluffton, and at the age of nineteen taught his first school. Since that time he has devoted every winter to that profession, and has taught in all forty seven months, becoming a popular and successful teacher. February 24, 1883, he was married to Miss Mary Batson, who was born in Wells County July 8, 1860, a daughter of Samuel J. and Catherine (Huffman) Batson. They are the parents of two children—Ada M. and Delmar. Mr. Foust is a member of the Protestant Methodist church, and his wife

belongs to the United Brethren church. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of Salamonie Lodge, No. 392, I. O. O. F., at Warren.

—❦—❦—❦—❦—❦—
WILLIAM LIPKEY, a prominent agriculturist of Union Township, with whose interests he has been identified for many years, was born in Brooke County, Virginia, May 26, 1822, a son of Charles and Margaret (Crow) Lipkey, the father having served as a soldier during the war of 1812. He was the only son in a family of six children of Henry and Mary Ann Lipkey, and was of German descent, his father, Henry Lipkey, coming from Germany when sixteen years of age. He was a soldier during the war of the Revolution. Charles and Margaret Lipkey were the parents of the following children—Henry, who died leaving a family of four sons and two daughters; Philip, Charles (deceased), Margaret Jane, deceased, wife of Edward Meacham, left at her death two sons; Elizabeth married George Clemmens, and has three sons; Rachel and Catherine died unmarried, and William, the subject of this sketch. In September, 1822, the parents removed with their family from Virginia to Trumbull County, Ohio, and there our subject spent his boyhood and early manhood in agricultural pursuits. In 1848 he started on foot with knapsack on his back, from Trumbull County, and in this way traveled to Wells County, Indiana, and pre-empted the land on which he now resides, being the southeast quarter of section 13, township 28 north, range 11 east. Mr. Lipkey was married February 1, 1854, to Miss Belinda S. Lewis, a daughter of Wheeler and Abiah Lewis, of Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Lipkey joined the Methodist Episcopal

church in December, 1856, and became active, earnest members and liberal supporters of the Christian religion. Mrs. Lipkey was for many years an invalid, yet peacefully and quietly awaited the end of her earthly pilgrimage, and died in the blessed hope of a glorious immortality, November 7, 1886. Mr. Lipkey has been a member of the quarterly conference of his church for nearly thirty years, either as trustee, steward, class-leader or superintendent of the Sabbath-school. He is one of the public-spirited, enterprising citizens of Wells County, and is always ready to assist in all things that may add to the welfare of the people. He is frequently called upon to act as executor, administrator or guardian, and is always found to be efficient, capable and honest, and is a man highly respected by all who know him, for his uprightness of character. He is a good neighbor, a trustworthy friend and a Christian gentleman. In his political views he is a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, belonging to Ossian Lodge, No. 297.

—❦—❦—❦—❦—❦—
JOSEPH SEAMAN, of Zanesville, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, November 19, 1816, son of John and Elizabeth (Loeb) Seaman, also natives of Pennsylvania. John Seaman was a son of Eberhardt Seaman, who was born in Germany. His wife was also born in Germany, and they were married in that country. They immigrated to America and were among the earliest settlers of Berks County. They had five children—Jonathan, George, John and Elizabeth; the name of the other child is unknown. The children all lived and died in Pennsylvania, except the youngest, who moved to Maryland. Joseph removed to



Rev. Lippkey

Trumbull County, Ohio, in the spring of 1836, where he married Maria Bailey, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Rupright) Bailey, of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Her parents had nine children—Peter, John, George, Maria, Elizabeth, Susanna, Barbara, Catherine and Sarah. They were all reared and married in Ohio. Mr. Seaman, after his marriage, worked at the carpenter's trade until he removed to Indiana in 1854, although he had a farm. Their children were all born in Ohio, and all came with them to this State. Mary A. married Lewis Raber; Sarah A. married William Raber, and died in 1855; Eliza became the wife of Noah Blouser; Jonathan married Betty McBride; George A. married Maria Schunk; Adaline married Jacob Kaiser; Angeline married Daniel Shoup; William H. married Kate Kaiser; Emanuel R. married Clara J. Bechtel. Only four of these children are living—Jonathan, Adaline, Mary and Eliza. Adaline and Angeline were twins. When Mr. Seaman came to Union Township in 1854 he settled upon the farm that he now owns. A small frame house had been built, and fifty acres partially cleared. His wife died March 18, 1883, and February 10, 1884, he married Mrs. Hannah Rupright, daughter of William and Susan (Furney) Shepler. They settled in the village of Zanesville, and have resided there ever since. Mr. Seaman made the first land appraisalment in Union Township under the new law, and has also served as trustee of the township. He was one of the founders of the Lutheran church in Union Township, and his labor aided largely in its establishment. From its organization in 1860 he has been an elder, and was clerk for many years. Politically he is an earnest Democrat, and never loses faith in the ultimate success of his party. Of the children of his parents, Catherine

married Samuel Stein, and resides at Caledonia, Michigan; Benjamin married Elizabeth Kaulman; Reuben, deceased, married Catherine Loeb, and after her death, her cousin, Sarah Loeb, also deceased.

THOMAS MORRIS, M. D., is a native of Kentucky, born in Bracken County, August 6, 1848, a son of John P. and Mary Ann (McClennahan) Morris, the father being a native of the same county, and a descendant of an old Kentucky family. The great-grandfather of our subject came from Maryland to Kentucky in the pioneer days of that State, and settled at Augusta, when the surrounding country was a wilderness. He represented his county in the Kentucky Legislature several terms. His son, the grandfather of our subject, was a surveyor, and laid out the greater part of Bracken County. The father of Dr. Morris was a farmer, which avocation he followed the greater part of his life. He is still living in Bracken County, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. The mother died August 5, 1868. Thomas Morris, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in his native county, being reared to the avocation of a farmer, and receiving his education in the common schools. He followed farming and dealing in real estate at different times until about 1875, when he began the study of medicine with a physician of Kentucky, and afterward studied under the preceptorship of his brother, Dr. George P. Morris, of Grant County, Indiana. In 1879 he entered Fort Wayne Medical College, and graduated from that institution in 1881. He then commenced the practice of medicine at Roll, Blackford County, Indiana, and in 1883 came to Mount Zion, Wells County, where he has since followed his profession,

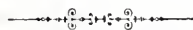
and has succeeded in establishing a good practice and is the present postmaster at the latter place. Dr. Morris was married in Wells County, May 11, 1875, to Miss Sarah A. Lee, a native of Wells County, and a daughter of Jonathan R. Lee, one of the pioneers of Jackson Township. Her parents are still living in Jackson Township. Dr. and Mrs. Morris are the parents of two sons—Osear E. and George B. The doctor is a member of the Odd Fellows order, belonging to Salamonie Lodge, No. 392, at Warren. He is a member of the Methodist Protestant church.

BENJAMIN C. BATSON is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Jackson Township, November 14, 1847, son of Nathaniel and Nancy (Ralston) Batson. He was reared in his native township, on the home farm, his youth being passed in assisting with the work of the farm and attending the district schools. March 7, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Alice Davis, a native of Highland County, Ohio, born November 5, 1847, a daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Clond) Davis. Of the four children born to this union one son, Lewis Benjamin, is deceased. The names of those yet living are—Henry S., James C. and Alice Emily. Mr. Batson lived on the old homestead with his parents for eight years after his marriage, when he settled on his present farm on section 11 of Jackson Township. His land at that time was in a wild state, heavily covered with timber, and entirely unimproved. Of his sixty acres he has cleared about thirty-five acres which he has brought under cultivation, and has erected his present residence and other buildings besides making other substantial improvements on his place.

Mr. and Mrs. Batson are members of the Christian church. In politics he casts his suffrage with the Democratic party, his father having also been a life-long Democrat.

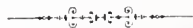
GEORGE F. MOWERY, farmer and stock-raiser, was born in Salt Creek, Pickaway County, Ohio, July 21, 1851. His father, Peter Mowery, was also a native of that county, born June 9, 1829, son of Jacob Mowery, who was of German descent. His mother, Lydia (King) Mowery, was born in Jackson, Ohio, August 19, 1829, daughter of John George and Catherine (Myers) King. Both were reared on a farm and followed that occupation until 1865, when they removed to this county, where the father purchased 340 acres of improved land six miles southeast of Bluffton. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are living. The mother died May 30, 1870, and the father afterward married Mary A. Gottschalk; he died September 22, 1871. Our subject was fourteen years of age when his parents came to Wells County. He was educated in the county schools, and remained with his parents until their death. October 19, 1871, he was married to Miss Mary A. French, daughter of John G. French, and they settled upon a piece of land containing seventy-three acres which his father had given him. He resided there two years, then purchased eighty acres of unimproved land, which he partially improved. He paid \$1,000 for the land and sold it for twice that sum in eighteen months. After this he rented one year, then bought forty acres of Samuel Gensell. In 1881 he purchased his present farm, which consisted of fifty-three acres, then sold three acres to Lewis King. He now has a fine farm of fifty acres. Mr. and Mrs. Mow-

ery are the parents of six children—John W., Franklin E., Eliza A., Sanford L., Clara Catherine and Harriet M. Mr. Mowery served as constable two years, and in politics affiliates with the Democratic party. He and his wife are members of the Christian church.



JOHN G. BENNETT, farmer, Harrison Township, was born in Huntingdonshire, England, January 7, 1827, son of John and Mary (Tansley) Bennett, natives of the same place. His father was in limited circumstances, and he was put to hard work when very young, going from one field to another attending to stock. When only nine years of age he was taken from school and went to work for wages on a farm. His work was plowing, for which he received from 37 to 40 cents a week. He made his home with his parents until he was sixteen years of age, then hired out for \$25 per year. The second year he received \$35, and from that time until twenty-four years of age he received \$60 a year. In this way he saved enough money to bring him, in May, 1851, to the United States to make a visit. He was induced by his uncle to remain here, and the following year his parents came. He remained in Chester County, Pennsylvania, a year, and in June, 1852, went to Canada, and thence the following September came to Wells County, Indiana. He worked for Robert Turner in building one mile of plank road on the Bluffton and Fort Wayne road. In the fall of 1852 he and his father made 2,000 rails and chopped 100 cords of wood in the winter of 1852-'53. Besides making a living, all the money he received was a five-franc piece. The following spring he rented a farm of his former employer for one season. The

next year he dug wells and quarried rocks in Bluffton at \$1.00 per foot, furnishing everything himself. In the summer of 1854 he purchased forty acres of land upon which he now lives, that had very little improvement upon it. He commenced at once to improve his farm, but during the summers of 1856-'7-'8 he was engaged in building a plank road from Warren to Huntington for James Crosbie. Since that time he has been engaged in farming, and from time to time has added to his first purchase until he now owns 154 acres of land, seventy-five acres being in a good state of cultivation. His father died September 16, 1864, aged seventy-five years, and his mother died October 8, 1877, at the age of seventy-four years. May 19, 1860, he was married to Miss Emma Lafferty, daughter of David and Nancy (Westfall) Lafferty. She was born in Ohio and came to Wells County when four years of age. Of their ten children, six are living—John C., Mary Ann, Ida J., George D., Alice M. and Lena Ellen. George E. died at the age of sixteen months, and three died in early infancy. Mr. Bennett is a member of the Old-School Baptist church, and politically is a Republican.



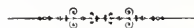
JOHN H. FERGUSON, of Ossian, is among the oldest residents of Wells County, having been born in this county in the year 1840. His parents, James and Eliza (Hume) Ferguson, were born in Scotland, the father in the northern part, and the mother in Edinburgh. His paternal grandfather, George Ferguson, was a millwright by trade, and was at one time very wealthy. When twenty years of age James Ferguson immigrated from Scotland to Canada, and on the same vessel was the little girl who after-

ward became his wife. Her parents both died before her third year. They arrived in Canada in 1820, where the girl grew to womanhood. James worked at the baker's trade some and also purchased a farm. He had two brothers, Thomas and John, who came to Canada, and resided near James. John was a sailor for many years, but finally gave up the sea and settled upon land. James Ferguson married Eliza Hume, April 9, 1833, the same little girl who crossed the ocean in 1820. Rev. McCauley performed the marriage ceremony. Mrs. Ferguson was born March 3, 1809. Three children were born in Canada—Charlotte, George H. and Agnes H. After his marriage James decided to change his locality, and February 1, 1834, he started on horseback and traveled across the country to Vermont and New Jersey, and February 22, arrived home at Hopfield, Canada. He kept a diary of his travels, now in possession of his son, John H., who has in his possession a slate and some carpenter tools which belonged to his grandfather George. Not being pleased with that country, he returned to his home in Hopfield, Canada, on February 22, being gone twenty-two days, and his brother Thomas having been in the vicinity of Fort Wayne, and writing encouraging letters, he decided to sell his farm in Canada and locate in Indiana. The family arrived in Allen County in the fall of 1838, having made most of the journey from Quebec via the lakes. Here James worked at various occupations for a few months, and in the fall of 1838 purchased 123 acres of land, which is now owned by his son James W., in Jefferson Township. In February of the year 1840 the family moved into their new cabin in the wild woods, and for the first time felt the joy of living on free soil that was purchased and owned in a free county. James early became a natu-

ralized citizen, and as he had at least \$600 cash to begin life in the new country, his family fared well. He was a typical Scotchman, and was one of the most earnest workers of the day. The first corn planted was devoured by squirrels and blackbirds, and the land was then sown in buckwheat. This proved a fair crop, and supplied his family through the winter. He was not one of the noted hunters of early times, but his persistent labor brought far larger returns. He was a great reader, a profound thinker and reasoner, and a devout Presbyterian. He was one of the first members of the first Presbyterian organized church in the county, and was one of the trustees appointed by the General Assembly of the State, approved January 13, 1845, Isaac Sumners being his confrere. The church was known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elhanan. Near this church he donated an acre of ground for a public cemetery, in care of the trustees of the church. Mr. Ferguson was earnest in his endeavor to inculcate principles of morality and social virtues among the people, and the character of this neighborhood may now be largely attributed to these influences, which gave an impetus in the right direction. Five children were born in Jefferson Township—John H., Ellen M., James W., Charles and Nettie I. The father was an earnest Whig, and one of the founders of the Republican party in this county. He was a leader among men, and his counsels were largely sought. He was one of the trustees of the township for three years, and one of the first road supervisors. At his demise he had reached the age of seventy-five years. His wife's death occurred in 1881, at the age of seventy-two years. She was a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, a great reader, and took a deep interest in politics. Their children are all married except the youngest

daughter. Charlotte married Christian Drage, a wagon-maker, residing in Allen County, near Middletown. George H. was a teacher for many years, and died January 20, 1859, aged twenty-three years. Agnes H. became the wife of Lewis Myers, a farmer and carpenter of Jefferson Township. Ellen M. married Frederick Drage, and resides with her three sons in Marion Township, Allen County. James W., who resides on the old homestead, married Mary Wagner. Charles married Isabella White, and resides near his brother James. John H., our subject, is now a trustee of the Presbyterian church in his father's stead, while his brothers, James W. and Charles, are elders of the same church. He was a soldier during the war of the Rebellion, enlisting in August, 1862, a member of Company F, Eighty-eighth Indiana Infantry. He rose from the ranks to the office of Corporal, was promoted to Sergeant, in which position he served until the close of the Rebellion. He participated in the noted battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta campaign, with Sherman on his march to the sea, tramped through the Carolinas, and finally engaged in the battle of Bentonville. He was wounded at the battle of Stone River, and was also injured at Missionary Ridge on July 3, 1863, after crossing Elk River, but was off duty only a few days. After his return from the war, April 26, 1866, he was married to Miss Maggie Clark, daughter of Abram and Catherine Clark, of Ossian. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson had four children—Jennie E., Marion J., and Albert B. are living; the oldest, a son, died unnamed. All the comforts that wealth could procure were lavished upon Mrs. Ferguson, but her health declined day by day, and her demise occurred May 2, 1885. The remains were buried in Oaklawn

cemetery, at Ossian. His sister Nettie I. and daughter Jennie E. have since acted as housekeepers for the family. He is now engaged to marry an amiable lady by name of Mrs. Naney Richie, in the near future. Mr. Ferguson lives in a style befitting a man of education and wealth, and such as one deserves who risked his life that the nation might live. In the year 1884 Mr. Ferguson composed quite a lengthy poem on the War of the Rebellion, which has never come out in print.



HENRY S. CLOUD, an active and progressive farmer of Chester Township, was born in Clinton County, Ohio, April 27, 1837, a son of Henry S. and Annie (Laymon) Cloud, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively. The mother was brought to Ohio when young, and was married in that State to the father of our subject, who died the same year of the birth of his son Henry S. The latter was reared in Clinton County until fifteen years of age, when he left his native State for Indiana, and after remaining a short time near Muncie he came to Wells County, and has since been identified with the interests of this county, but shortly after coming here he found employment in Blackford and Grant counties. He worked for a number of years as a farm laborer in Wells County, and sometime in the '60s he purchased the farm in Chester Township, where he has since made his home. Of this land only a few acres had been cleared for farm use, on which stood an old log building; and at that time not a house had been built in the present village of Mount Zion, of which his house now forms a part. All the improvements have been made on the farm by Mr. Cloud, and the present commodious

dwelling and good farm buildings have been erected since he settled here. He was married in Wells County, January 12, 1860, to Miss Mary Batson, a native of Wells County, and a daughter of Nathaniel and Nancy (Ralston) Batson, who were among the early settlers of this county. To them were born six children—James Demming, Samuel Denton, Mary Delcie, Miami Dell, Lewis Delmer and Henry Delfries. In politics Mr. Cloud was reared a Democrat, but takes an independent position in the political affairs of his township or county. When twenty-seven years of age he was elected supervisor of his township, serving at that time one term. His next office was that of justice of the peace, which he filled efficiently for one term, and in 1881 was again elected township supervisor, which position he has since filled, serving to the best interests of his county. He is also notary public, having been appointed to that office in the spring of 1886. Mr. Cloud has carried the mail between Mount Zion and Bochmer about ten years. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to King Lodge, No. 146, at Warren. Mr. Cloud was bereaved by the death of his wife on the 17th of January, 1881.

GEORGE A. HARNISH, photographer, Bluffton, Indiana, was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1847, a son of Jacob and Susan (Miller) Harnish, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. He lived on his father's farm until nineteen years of age, when he went to Myerstown and began to learn the art of photography. In the spring of 1867 he accompanied his parents West and located in Bluffton, where he has since lived. He was

married in 1871 to Miss Laura Myers, a native of Wells County, born April 13, 1850, a daughter of David and Rachel (Miller) Myers, natives of Ohio, but early settlers of Wells County, locating here in 1837. Mr. and Mrs. Harnish have one daughter—Jennie, born October 12, 1872. They are members of the German Reformed church, of which he is an elder. Mr. Harnish is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, A. F. & A. M. He was one of the councilmen of Bluffton elected in 1881, and served a term of two years.

JOHIN T. GLASS, farmer, Jefferson Township, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, February 16, 1815, son of Ann and John Glass. The latter was born in Maryland soon after the Revolutionary war. His parents were natives of Ireland, and John was born soon after their arrival in America. The entire history of the family is not known, but it is known that there was another brother, George, who became a physician and located somewhere in the South. There were three daughters—Hannah married Thomas Strain, and resided near Parkersburg, West Virginia; Nancy married Thomas Hamilton, an Irishman, who for many years was a popular landlord at Steubenville, Ohio, where he died, leaving no heirs. The other sister married a gentleman named Parker, who was the original proprietor of Parkersburg, Virginia, and in whose honor the place was named. They had six or more children, but all trace of them has been lost. John Glass, Sr., came to Pennsylvania about 1790, having been a boatman on the Ohio River, running between Pittsburg and Memphis. About 1795 he was married to Ann Johnston, in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Their children were

—Esther, James, Mary, Ann, Rebecca, Sarah and Nancy. About 1809 the Glass family removed to Wayne County, Ohio, and preempted a quarter section of land. They were among the earliest settlers of that county. Ten years later an exchange of farms was made, and the family removed to Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Four children were born in Wayne County—John T., William J., Andrew and Lucinda. The parents remained upon their farm in Pennsylvania until their death. The mother died the same summer of their removal, and the father lived to be about eighty years of age. Four of the children came to this county, and were among the earliest settlers of Jefferson Township. Esther married Joseph Gorrell, Esq.; Lucinda married James Barkley in Pennsylvania, who with his two brothers, James and John, became residents of this county. Barkley and his family now live in Buchanan County, this State. The others remained in this county. There are now only six members of the original Glass family living. William married Miss Fidelia Stephens, of Indianola, Texas, and has nine children—John, William, Hodge, Glendora, Mary, Kate, Clover, Barney J. and Maggie. This family resides in De Witt County, Texas, where they own a large amount of real estate. Ann married Andrew McGaslick, of Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and has three daughters—Maggie, Rebecca and Mary J. Maggie married Samuel Smith; Rebecca is the wife of James Laughlin, and Mary J. became the wife of John McMillan, a grandson of Major John McMillan, one of the first settlers of the State of Pennsylvania. Sarah married John Johnston, and had four daughters—Mary A., who married William Slantz; Louisa, wife of Thornton B. Hunter, of this township; Nancy J., unmarried, and Melissa, who married Silas Gailey. Nancy married Joseph Lawrence, and she has two

daughters—Louisa married Scott Groseose, and Martha married Wilson McMillan. The name is fast dying out in the country of their nativity, but the ancestral farm in Pennsylvania is yet in possession of the heirs. When our subject came to Wells County he was a bachelor, twenty-nine years of age. He had no intention of remaining, and only came to assist his brother in settling in the new country. In 1840, in company with his brother James, a selection of land was made, and each purchased a half section. There were no settlers living in this neighborhood at that time, and the wild woods were full of game. The pea-vines were very high, and not a domestic animal could be found in the neighborhood. The Hatfield family lived near the south line of what is now Jefferson Township, and there the strangers were made welcome, housed and fed. The uninviting prospect was not such as inspired the brothers to remain, and they returned to Pennsylvania. Not until 1845 did John T. return to this county. Jonathan Eddy, Amos Schoonover and Mrs. Mary Wallace, with their families, had moved in, which comprised the families of the neighborhood. Mr. Glass had erected a cabin on his land, which still remains, also the old milk-house, both of which were built almost a half century ago. The cabin was 22x18 feet, and two stories in height, and was complete for occupancy except the floor, at a cost of \$16. It was built by Abram and John Fulton, the former of whom is still living. At that time this was the best cabin in the neighborhood, having three windows and a good clapboard roof. Mr. Glass was the first man to purchase stock in the township, beginning the business soon after he settled here. In 1845 he paid from one-half to three-fourths cents gross for stock, and guessed them off at that figure. He and his brother put in the first stock scales in the

northern part of the county in 1856. He began the stock trade without capital, and would trade anything he possessed for stock, except his land. He had a good retail trade with Fort Wayne butchers, and furnished the money that paid for the first car of stock ever shipped over the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Railroad from Fort Wayne. The prices paid for hogs and sheep from 1845 to 1855 were as follows: The first year, for dressed pork, one and a half cents, purchased from John Studabaker, the packer at Bluffton. Very few sheep were in the country, but ranged at one dollar per head. Good steers brought \$10. A good farm horse brought from \$30 to \$40. Wheat was worth from forty to fifty cents, and corn sixteen or seventeen cents. Money was so scarce that even at these figures stock and produce were slow sale, consumers being as scarce as the money. After spending one summer in the woods and trading successfully, he began to think that he would be more prosperous if he had a housekeeper. December 24, 1846, he was married to Miss Margaret Hatfield, Reverend Wright, a United Presbyterian minister, performing the marriage ceremony. This was the second marriage in the township, and one of the early ones in the history of the county. The young couple commenced housekeeping in the \$16 cabin, and the partnership then begun has continued to the present time in the greatest harmony. Mr. Glass was not a man of strong muscle, and the giant oaks were felled by other hands. He looked after his stock trade while the wife made his home cheerful, and several children came to bless the fireside—John A., who married Isa D. Todd; James became the husband of Ida Ryan; Andrew J. married Florence Roberts; Maggie J. is now Mrs. Nathaniel Weaver; George is the only one unmarried. Martha A., Milton and William

Wilson died in infancy; the others all reside in Jefferson Township. As Mr. Glass expresses it, "when the bell rings for dinner the children can all hear it." The passing years brought greater prosperity, and the broad acres grew into beautiful fields. The old cabin was exchanged for a large two-story frame mansion, and the old barns were supplemented by large commodious buildings which shelter herds of fine cattle and other stock. Mr. Glass has been one of the most extensive purchasers of stock in this county, and has been engaged in the business almost half a century. He has purchased stock of almost every farmer throughout Wells, Adams, Jay, Allen and Blackford counties. Although past three score years and ten, his activity is remarkable, and he rides on horseback as gaily as a youth of eighteen years. His good wife is the same genial housekeeper that in early days greeted the new-comer at her cabin door and made them welcome in this wooden country. Their years of toil set lightly on their shoulders, and the latch-string has ever hung outside the hospitable mansion as well as in the humble cabin. During the first year of their married life Mrs. Glass spun the flax and wove over 100 yards of linen, and this with the butter and other products kept the table well supplied. She often rode on horseback to Zanesville to do her marketing, across the country and through the swamps, yet she never faltered. Many families were dependent upon the sale of roots and raccoon skins for money to supply their needs. The city of Bluffton then contained one log store kept by Studabaker, and a tavern kept by Almond Case. The entire country has been developed since that time, and her children's children will be proud of the ancestry who have done so much to improve it. Their table has fed thousands of men who have labored, and Mrs. Glass has superintended



George W. King

the entire work. She is now sixty-three years old, and free from the infirmities of age.

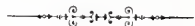
GEORGE W. KING, trustee of Harrison Township, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 8, 1832, a son of George and Catherine (Moyer) King. His father was a native of Virginia, and his grandfather was a native of Germany. His mother was born in Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. When our subject was two years old his parents removed to Pickaway County, Ohio, where he was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, and June 13, 1852, was married to Miss Catherine Grove, daughter of John and Susan (Leist) Grove, who was born in Pickaway County, January 30, 1833. Her parents were natives of that county, and their ancestors were from Pennsylvania. After his marriage Mr. King continued to reside on the old homestead until November, 1865, then came to Indiana and purchased 160 acres of partially improved land in Harrison Township, where he followed farming and stock-raising until 1882, then purchased his present home and occupied his fine brick residence. In the spring of 1886 he was elected township trustee, which office he fills creditably. Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. King, six are living—Adeline, born June 1, 1853, died December 2, 1858; Lewis Edward, born September 27, 1855, married Lydia Evans; Amos, born December 28, 1857, married Nettie Stewart February 12, 1885; Sarah Ellen, born December 24, 1860, wife of Edwin R. Davis; George Franklin, born December 16, 1863, died September 24, 1865; John Wesley, born April 1, 1867;

Charles Henry, born March 9, 1870, and Clara Catherine, born April 19, 1873. Mr. King is a self-made man, and his success in life is due wholly to his attention to business. By honest dealing he has won the respect and confidence of all who know him. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party. Mrs. King is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

AARON FLEMING, one of the pioneers of Wells County, and a prosperous agriculturist of Lancaster Township, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, July 4, 1817, a son of Absalom and Sarah (Wright) Fleming, who were among the early settlers of that county. They were natives of Delaware and Virginia, respectively, and were married in Jefferson County, Ohio. Of the children born to them Aaron was the eldest child and only son. The eldest daughter, Mrs. Diana Cotton, lives in Bluffton; another daughter, Jane, lives in Michigan; and Rachel, Mrs. Lydia Stroup and Mrs. Mary Sides are deceased. Aaron Fleming was quite young when his parents settled in Wayne County, Ohio, and there he was reared to manhood, his youth being spent in farm labor. In October, 1838, he started in life for himself, coming to Wells County, Indiana, where he worked as a hired hand for Adam Hatfield for two years for \$200, receiving in payment a deed of 100 acres of land on section 2 of Rock Creek Township. One year later he returned to Ohio, and was married in his native State September 15, 1842, to Sarah Bell Kirkpatrick, who was born November 29, 1821, a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Johnston) Kirkpatrick. Eleven children have been born to Mr. and

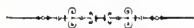
Mrs. Fleming, of whom six died in early childhood. Those yet living are—Mary Jane, wife of Albert Wilson, living in Lancaster Township; Sarah Ann, wife of Jeremiah Sowl, of Union Township; Lydia Bell, wife of James Wilson, of Harrison Township; Drusilla E., wife of Donaldson Wilson, of Union Township; Martha J., wife of David T. Wasson, of Union Township. About two weeks after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Fleming settled on his land in Rock Creek Township, in a log cabin, where the following season they had three acres cleared and planted in corn and potatoes. They lived on this land nine years, opening about fifty acres, when they sold out and established their home where they now reside, on section 6, Lancaster Township, in 1852, and again commenced the laborious work of clearing the forest and building a home. He is now the owner of 479 acres of valuable land, which is all managed by himself, and has 250 acres under cultivation and well improved. The parents of Mr. Fleming came to Wells County in 1844 and made their home with him in Rock Creek Township until he removed to Lancaster Township, when they lived on part of his farm in a separate house. Both lived to an advanced age, the father dying first. Some years after his death the mother, a remarkably active woman, considering her age, started out one morning to look for her cows. Not returning, search was made for her by the neighbors, when she was found dead, having been murdered, by whom or for what motive was a mystery which never has been solved, as it was not known that she had an enemy in the world. Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Fleming are Presbyterians in their religious faith, Mrs. Fleming having joined the Presbyterian church in 1839, and Mr. Fleming becoming a member of the same denomination in 1846. In politics Mr.

Fleming was formerly a Whig, but has been a Republican since the organization of that party.



WASHINGTON IRVING FITCH, of the Bluffton Manufacturing Company, was born in Wayne County, New York, May 25, 1841, a son of John Otis and Sarah (Hilly) Fitch, natives of Wayne County, New York, the father born February 8, 1812, of Scotch descent, and the mother born October 6, 1814, of English descent. The father died May 27, 1886, and the mother March 26, 1887, on the homestead in Cayuga County. When our subject was fifteen years old his parents moved to Cayuga County. He remained on the farm with them until 1863, when he came to Indiana and worked at the carpenter's trade at Kendallville until the spring of 1884, when he enlisted in the 100-day service and was assigned to Company F, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Indiana Infantry. He served 120 days at Munfordville and Louisville, Kentucky. After being discharged at Indianapolis he returned to Kendallville and for a short time worked at the carpenter's trade, when he moved to Barry County, Michigan, eight miles south of Hastings, and in 1868 went to South Orange, New Jersey, and thence to Old Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where he remained until the fall of 1870, when he came to Bluffton, where he was soon after employed as workman in the corn-planter factory of T. Horton & Co. In 1883 he, with Lee S. Kapp and W. W. Weisell, organized the Bluffton Manufacturing Company, and he was by common consent made superintendent of the shop. March 25, 1863, he was married in Wayne County, New York, to Miss Sarah Elizabeth Me-

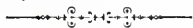
Caughan, who was born in Newburg, Orange County, New York, November 12, 1844, a daughter of John and Mary (Stewart) McCaughan. Her father was born in County Derry, Ireland, July 18, 1806, and remembers well the time when in 1836, 1837 and 1838 the Protestants carried their guns to church to prevent the Catholics from molesting them. Mr. and Mrs. Fitch have three children—Ida May, born April 2, 1867, in Barry County, Michigan; Anna C., born July 19, 1871, and Freddie G., born March 6, 1876, in Bluffton, Indiana. Mr. Fitch is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 114, and of Bluffton Encampment, No. 141, I. O. O. F., and has passed all the chairs and has been representative to the Grand Lodge in both the subordinate lodge and encampment, and has served as treasurer of the lodge five years. He and his wife and eldest daughter are members of the Baptist church.



DAVID C. HUFFMAN, M. D., a prominent citizen of Wells County, is a native of Ohio, born in Clarke County, October 29, 1855, a son of Jacob and Sarah (Tenant) Huffman. The father was a son of Jacob Huffman, Sr., one of the pioneers of Clarke County, Ohio, who came from Greenbrier County, in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. He was of German descent. The mother of our subject was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, of Irish descent. The father was a merchant miller, and at one time was a merchant also in the city of Springfield. He also ran the Peru Mills at Springfield. He died in 1877. His widow yet survives, and is still a resident of Springfield. David C. Huffman, the subject of this sketch, received his education in the grammar and high schools of Springfield, and at the age

of eighteen years began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. Cyrus De Riehy of Springfield. In 1876 he entered the Miami Medical College, where he attended lectures, graduating from that institution in 1878. He immediately commenced the practice of medicine at Springfield, where he followed his profession until coming to Mount Zion, Wells County, in September, 1885, and since coming here he has met with marked success, being well skilled in the knowledge of his profession, and has gained the confidence and respect of all who know him. He was united in marriage June 20, 1882, at Yellow Springs, Ohio, to Miss Annie M. Landaker, a native of Clarke County, and daughter of Gideon and Hettie A. (Stratton) Landaker. Her father was born in Virginia, coming to Ohio in his boyhood, and her mother is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. They are now residents of Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Huffman became a member of the Clarke County Medical Society when he commenced the practice of his profession, and in that society held the office of treasurer, and was a member of the board of censors. In 1880 he held the office of chief medical examiner for the order of "Chosen Friends," of Clarke County, and in 1882 was appointed jail physician of Springfield, which position he held until he came to Wells County. In 1882 he was also Surgeon for the Ninth Battery Light Artillery, of Springfield. In the fall of 1882, during the small-pox epidemic at Springfield, he was appointed a member of the board, composed of three physicians, to take measures toward suppressing the epidemic. He was especially fitted for this position, having thoroughly studied this disease in Cincinnati. While the yellow fever was raging at Memphis, Tennessee, he offered his services to try to help the sufferers, but not being acclimated his offer was not accepted. Soon after be-

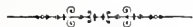
coming a resident of Wells County, Dr. Huffman was elected an honorary member of the Wells County Medical Society, and was appointed physician for Chester and Jackson townships. In politics the doctor affiliates with the Democratic party. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church of Mount Zion.



GEORGE GAISER, an active and enterprising citizen of Chester Township, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, the date of his birth being August 6, 1835, and is a son of George and Anna (Pfengstag) Gaiser, his father dying when he was four years old. He passed his youth in his native country, remaining there until eighteen years of age, when with his brother David he immigrated to America, sailing from Havre, France, on the steamer Connecticut, and after a rather pleasant voyage of thirty-five days, they arrived in New York, having but 50 cents in money, without friends, and unable to speak the English language. David Gaiser went to Dayton, Ohio, while George remained in New York and bound himself out to a shoemaker named Demmler, with whom he worked about three months. He then went to another shoemaker named David Eldredge, with whom he served the rest of his apprenticeship, and after learning his trade he worked for Mr. Eldredge as a journeyman for some time. After leaving New York he went to Dayton, Ohio, where he again met his brother. He soon found employment with a man named Michael Neff, for whom he worked until 1861. October 28, 1861, he was married to Martha A. Cloud, a native of Highland County, Ohio, and daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Sharp) Cloud, both now deceased, the father dying November 3,

1876, and the mother about the year 1850. Mr. Cloud was one of the earliest settlers of Grant County, Indiana, where he experienced many of the privations and hardships of pioneer life, living in that county until his death. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Gaiser one son, David H., died in Kansas in the fall of 1886. Those yet living are—Daniel, married Eliza Liddle and is now living in Boehmer, Indiana; Melvin A., William A. and Sarah Anna. In October, 1861, Mr. Gaiser enlisted in the war of the Rebellion at Dayton, Ohio, and was assigned to Company A, Fifty-eighth Ohio Infantry. His regiment rendezvoused at Camp Chase, Columbus, and from there proceeded to Fort Donelson, participating in battle the same night. He next took part in the battle of Shiloh, participating in both days' fight, his immediate command being under General Lew. Wallace. He then went to Corinth, thence to Memphis, and from there to Helena, Arkansas, where he participated in the Vicksburg campaign. He was at Chickasaw Bayou, under General Frank Blair, and was there taken prisoner and brought into Vicksburg, where he was paroled the same night. At the end of thirty-five days he was taken to Jackson, Mississippi, and thirty-five days later was taken to New Orleans, and after remaining there a few months he was taken by ship to New York and finally to Camp Chase, where he was exchanged and returned home on a furlough. He rejoined his regiment at Vicksburg, which was stationed there on provost duty, and Mr. Gaiser was appointed Regimental Orderly, holding that position until January, 1864, when he received an honorable discharge after an honorable service of over three years. He participated in battles, campaigns, marches and sieges, and experienced many of the horrors of the Southern prison pens, and after the war returned to his family at Day-

ton, Ohio. He then removed to Grant County, Indiana, where he bought twenty-three acres of land, for which he paid \$300 down, when he went to Warren, Huntington County, to work at his trade to pay the balance on his farm. He worked at his trade for seven winters, when he settled on his farm, and after getting his land paid for he traded it for forty acres, paying the difference in money, and afterward obtained eighty acres in the same manner. After paying for this last tract of land and improving it he sold it and bought eighty acres of land in Chester Township, where he has since the spring of 1882 made his home. In politics Mr. Gaiser casts his suffrage with the Republican party. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church, and during their residence in Chester Township have gained the respect of the entire community.

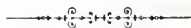


GEORGE FRYBACK, of Ossian, was born near Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, son of George and Susannah (Deam) Fryback. They were of German ancestry, the Deam family being natives of Virginia, and the Frybacks of Maryland. The parents were married in Ohio, and in September, 1839, they came to Indiana with eight children, Sarah, who married Joshua A. Duer, and Roselda, who married Norman Clark, remaining in Ohio. They made a home in Rock Creek Township. The name of the children coming to this county were—Massy, Caty Ann, Charlotte, Polly, Lewis, John, George, and William. The first cabin was soon erected in the wild woods. Their goods were transported with teams, one being an ox team and the other one a horse team. The children were old enough to lend great assistance in clearing the land. The father

was not a healthy man and spent much of his time in the woods with his rifle. The larder was always filled with venison, although the family were sometimes scarce of bread. The father was a noted bee hunter and wild bees were very plenty. The honey tasted strongly of "richweed," which grew in great abundance, and in some places the pea vine upon which the stock fattened was at that time plentiful in the woods. The father had but little money left after his half section of land was paid for. Most of the clearing was done by his sons, who grew up strong and robust. Our subject was fond of the chase, and many a fine buck was carried to his father's cabin. Wild turkey and raccoon were also plenty, and most of the money the early settlers had was derived from the sale of deer skins, furs, etc., which were captured during the winter and spring months. One of the first hunts taken by our subject was after a yoke of steers that had strayed away. Armed with a flint-lock gun, he started, in August to look them up, and perchance kill a deer. He had not proceeded far up the river when he sighted a deer standing in the river some distance away. Hoping to get a shot, he peered cautiously about, and as the water was low, waded out a considerable distance from shore. Sighting his game, he crossed the river and came out almost opposite the deer, concealing himself in a tree top. The deer turned his head toward him and within good shooting distance. George had a severe attack of buck fever, but after taking aim several times, pulled the trigger and the deer fell. He reloaded his gun and waded in for his game, which was carried home in great triumph. The parents lived to a ripe old age. Their home, during the last few years of their life, was made with our subject, the children being all married and settled in life. The father was eighty-three years old at his death,

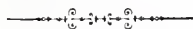
which occurred July 30, 1875. The mother died in February, 1877. Eight of the children are now living—Charlotte and George being all that are living in this county. George married Eve Schwartz, in 1849, daughter of George and Sarah Schwartz, also early settlers of this county. The Schwartz family came from Montgomery County, Ohio, and settled in Rock Creek Township in 1841-'42. For several years the young couple lived on the father's farm, George having built a hewed log cabin, and in 1854 he purchased the land upon which he still resides. His first improvement was a cabin, and he began clearing and digging up the stumps. In a short time he had a nice little farm. Children were born to them in the cabin where their domestic life was begun, and while their advent increased their joys they also added to their cares. Oliver D. and Levi T. were born on the old homestead. James, Frank, Mary M. and Sarah S. were born on the land now owned by the father. After a small field was cleared and planted to corn, our subject moved to the Schwartz farm, where he remained two years, renting his own land. All the improvements his tenant made during his absence was to burn up a lot of rails that he had made before renting, and when he returned, his farm was not in a much better condition for tilling than when he left it. Mr. Fryback has attended many of the log-rollings and cabin and barn raisings in this neighborhood, and muscle was used to its greatest extent. As the years rolled by, improvements became more marked. Frame residences took the place of the old log cabins with their mud-and-stiek chimneys. The children grew to maturity, and four of them are happily married. Oliver was the first one married; he became the husband of Emma Shelly, whose parents were German. They resided in Bluffton when the marriage took place. They had

three children, but the wife is now deceased. Levi married Samantha, daughter of Abram Woodard, who now resides in Ossian; the young couple now reside in Jefferson Township on a farm; they have had five children. Mary became the wife of William Karn, a farmer of Union Township, and they have three children. James married Jennie Ferguson, whose parents came to this county from Kansas. Only one daughter is married; she resides at Uniondale, where James does carpenter work. Mr. Fryback has not sought office, but he has filled several official positions in his township. Their daughter Mary secured a good education, and obtained a certificate for teaching, but never engaged in the profession. Frank remains with his parents and helps to work the farm. The old log cabin has been replaced by modern buildings, and the pioneer of 1810 can hardly recognize the beauty and wealth of the country through whose trackless woods the bounding deer and thrumming turkey were so often pursued.



ELIAS P. MORRICAL, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Darke County, Ohio, September 8, 1842, son of Clark and Sarah (Pence) Morrical, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Ohio. The father removed with his parents from Virginia to Darke County, where he was married. When Elias was about two years old his parents removed to Indiana, living there eleven years, then went to Kankakee County, Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their days. The father died April 28, 1857, in Marshall County, Indiana, whither he had gone on business. The mother survived him until December 28, 1867. Elias was thirteen years of age when

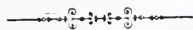
his parents removed to Kankakee County. He lived there until he came to Wells County. In 1865 he went to Michigan, where he was engaged in the pump business, and the following year came to Wells County, where he was married October 30, 1870, to Sarah O. Adams, who died September 14, 1876, leaving four children. All except Dora are deceased—Olive, and two infants unnamed. The year after his marriage Mr. Morrieal returned to Kankakee, where he resided two years, then removed to this county. It was here that his wife died, and in 1877 he went to Randolph County, where he was married October 17, 1877, to Mary Jane Clevinger, who died May 28, 1879, leaving one child—Rosa May. In 1879 he returned to Wells County and located in his present home. Mr. Morrieal is independent in politics, but is a strong temperance man. He owns about seventy-nine acres of land, sixty-nine acres being cleared. He was married to his present wife January 17, 1882. She was formerly Alice M. Tinsley, a resident of Randolph County, and a daughter of Malachi and Margaret E. Tinsley; the father is deceased and the mother is a resident of Nottingham.



JOSEPH C. SILVER, retired, a resident of Bluffton, was born in Monmouth County, New Jersey, April 23, 1806. He was an infant when his father, also named Joseph C. Silver, moved with his family to Mason County, Kentucky. During the second war with Great Britain the latter joined "Dick" Johnson's mounted riflemen, moved his family to Montgomery County, Ohio, and started for the seat of war; but before he was called upon to participate in any engagement he was thrown from his horse, and from the injuries he thereby received in his breast

he died in 1820, aged about thirty-three years. His wife, *née* Rhoda Johnson, survived until she reached the advanced age of seventy-eight years, when she died in Greene County, Ohio. The paternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch were Nathan and Hannah (Woodward) Silver, who moved from New Jersey to Ohio about 1808, and finally died at their home upon a farm ten miles south of Dayton, the former in 1818, and the latter a number of years previous. Mr. Silver, our subject, as he grew up learned the trade of carpenter. Soon after he was married, in the winter of 1828-'29, he purchased the lease of a water-power saw-mill in Montgomery County, Ohio, which shortly afterward burned down on his hands, leaving him in debt and with no resources but his own indomitable pluck and energy. Friends offered to assist him, but after some hesitation he respectfully declined to receive any contributions, being determined to put himself upon his feet again, which he indeed succeeded in doing. In 1834 he moved to Fort Wayne, this State, and was the first to bring a steam saw-mill into Allen County, which he set up in running order. While living in the northern part of that county he cleared 200 acres of land, on which he followed farming; and during his residence there he was elected justice of the peace for a term of five years, but at the end of two and a half years he resigned the office. Subsequently he was elected constable, and was also appointed deputy sheriff of Allen County by Sheriff J. L. Sweeny, and he served in these relations for a term of two years, during which time he resided at Fort Wayne. In the spring of 1855 he moved to Bluffton, purchasing 200 acres of land near the town, anticipating a rise in value on account of the prospect of railroads; but these were deferred so long that Mr. Silver was obliged to sell at very

little advance. He also bought live-stock, shipping it to the East. At this place he also purchased a saw-mill, which too was burned down, but he rebuilt and ran the mill about four years longer, and then sold it and devoted his attention more closely to the real estate business. For a year or so past he has retired himself from active business cares. Mr. Silver was married October 10, 1828, to Margaret Fitts, daughter of Philip and Mary (Hendrickson) Fitts. Her father died in 1825, but her mother is yet living at the great age of ninety-seven years. Mrs. Silver was born January 18, 1810, and the aged and venerable couple have now passed their "golden wedding" day by nearly nine years. Their children have been—Minerva, deceased; William, living at Morganville, Kansas; Philip W., residing in De Kalb County, this State; Samuel D., at Denver, Colorado; Henry Clay, who died at Shreveport, Louisiana; Winfield Scott, attorney at law in Bluffton; Mary, deceased, besides two others who died in infancy.



NATHANIEL GREENFIELD, a prominent citizen of Lancaster Township, where he resides on section 28, has been identified with the interests of Wells County since 1852. In the spring of that year he came here from Wayne County, Ohio, and erected a hewed log house on his land, 120 acres of heavily timbered land, which he had purchased in June, 1846. After erecting his house he returned to Ohio, and in September, 1852, moved his family to his pioneer home in Wells County. Mr. Greenfield is a native of Wayne County, Ohio, born September 13, 1824, a son of Zachariah and Jane (Forsyth) Greenfield, his father born in Baltimore County, Maryland, May

15, 1798, and his mother in the County Tyrone, Ireland, June 25, 1792. They were married July 7, 1821, in Wayne County, Ohio, and to them were born two children—Nathaniel and Rebecca Jane. The latter was born in Wayne County, Ohio, January 28, 1828, and was married to John Shafer, November 1, 1848. To them were born two sons—James N. Greenfield, born August 26, 1849, died September 30, 1865, and Winslow B., born October 3, 1854, died February 18, 1860. John Shafer was born in Stark County, Ohio, July 17, 1826, and died near where he was born December 21, 1879. Mrs. Shafer is still a widow, residing in North Lawrence, Stark County, Ohio, still holding the position of ticket agent for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad, which position she has held for twenty-five years. The father was one of the pioneers of Wayne County, Ohio, settling in the then wilderness of that county as early as the year 1818. He cleared a farm and erected good buildings and enjoyed a comfortable home in that county until his death March 25, 1876. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for over fifty years and was a member of the first organization of that church in that part of the country and for one year the only surviving member of that first organization. The mother of our subject died November 15, 1856. She was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church during her married life. Nathaniel Greenfield was early in life inured to hard labor, his youth being spent in assisting his father with the work of the farm. Muscle was in demand; all manner of work required hard muscle; ground was plowed with primitive plows with wooden mold boards; grain was cut with sickles and threshed with flails, and cleaned with a sheet; horses were used by some farmers for tramping off grain, passing

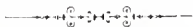


A. Greenfield

around in a circle on the barn floor. The opportunity for an education was very limited, his longest term of schooling at any one term being sixty-five days, but by persevering industry and private study he secured a fair education, and when twenty-three years of age was qualified to teach, and for a while taught near his old home in Ohio. After coming to Wells County he taught the first winter in his district, the school being held in a log cabin with the desks fastened to the walls of the house on three sides, scholars facing the walls. The following spring he was elected clerk of the township board of trustees, and through his influence twelve new frame school-houses were erected in his township. The two winters following he taught the school in his district, and the three following winters he was engaged in teaching in the schools in Bluffton, after which he taught in his own district again. Mr. Greenfield was united in marriage in Wayne County, Ohio, October 2, 1845, to Miss Elizabeth Kenagy, and to them was born one daughter, Elizabeth Jane, September 14, 1846. Elizabeth Greenfield died September 15, 1846. Elizabeth Jane was reared by her grandparents until her grandmother Greenfield died; then she came to Wells County, and lived with her father until September 19, 1867, when she was united in marriage to John Wesson. They are now living in Bluffton and have a family of six children. Mr. Greenfield was married to his present wife, Miss Maria Jane Shafer, in Stark County, Ohio, May 8, 1851, who was born in that county March 30, 1832, a daughter of John and Eve Shafer, both of whom died in Stark County, the father in August, 1861, aged seventy-one years, and the mother at the advanced age of eighty-four years July 31, 1876. They were the parents of four sons and four daughters, Mrs. Greenfield being

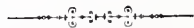
the youngest child. Their daughter Mary resides in Bluffton, and is the wife of Richard S. Bowman, a farmer, who has retired from active business. Mrs. Margaret Young, another daughter, resides in Stark County, Ohio, the widow of Cyrus Young. Philip Shafer, the only living son, resides on the home farm. William, Susan, Michael and John are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Greenfield have been born two children—Eva B., born in Wells County, Indiana, November 30, 1863, was united in marriage to Madison Powell, November 27, 1884, and now lives in Hebron, Thayer County, Nebraska; Anna L., living at home with her parents, was born February 6, 1868, and graduated in the class of 1886, from the Bluffton High School. The first home of our subject after coming to Wells County was replaced by a fine two-story frame residence in 1867. His buildings for the accommodation of his stock were all erected with a view to comfort and convenience and are all in good condition. He devotes some attention to stock raising and is making a specialty of short-horn cattle, also has a few Jerseys. He has always been an industrious citizen and by his persevering energy and good management has acquired his present fine property, he having commenced life in Wells County on a very small capital. In October, 1861, Mr. Greenfield enlisted as a recruit in Company G, Twelfth Indiana Infantry. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and was in General Banks' command through Maryland and Virginia. In February, 1865, he re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Infantry and served as Quartermaster-Sergeant. In early days Mr. Greenfield was a Henry Clay Whig, and naturally was one of the founders of the Republican party in Wells County. He has ever since been prominent in the councils of that political party, and is

the acknowledged leader of his party in Lancaster Township. By the sullages of his friends of both parties he was elected to the office of township trustee for one term, which alone shows his popularity in his township, being then over 100 Democratic majority. He is classed among the active and public-spirited citizens of Wells County, and is always ready to aid in any enterprise for the advancement of his township or county, and by his genial manners and strict and honorable dealings he gained the confidence and esteem of the entire community.



MATTHIAS W. BOWMAN is the resident manager of the business of Ferguson & Bowman, lumber manufacturers, at Murray Station, Lancaster Township. The property is situated in the center of section 16, where they own 260 acres of land adjoining their steam saw-mill, the timber from this land being manufactured into lumber by themselves, and the land being as fast as cleared placed under cultivation. Their mill is 30 x 104 feet, with a fifty horsepower engine, and was erected in 1882. Since acquiring the property the firm have made quite extensive improvements, among the most noticeable being Mr. Bowman's fine residence, near the mill, and a large barn. Mr. Bowman is a native of Ohio, born in Columbiana County, February 21, 1843, and is a son of Henry and Harriet (Armstrong) Bowman. In 1854 he was brought by his parents to Allen County, Indiana, his parents still living on their property in La Fayette Township. They were natives of Columbiana County, Ohio. Our subject remained under the home roof until he enlisted in the war of the Rebellion, when he became a member of

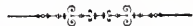
Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Indiana Infantry. He was mustered into the service May 1, 1864, for 100 days. He was in service principally in Tennessee until his discharge, September 21, 1864, when he returned to his home in Allen County, and engaged in teaching for about two years. He was married in April, 1866, to Miss Sarah Crab, a daughter of William Crab, who resides in La Fayette Township, Allen County. Mrs. Bowman died in 1870, aged twenty-three years, and December 23, 1874, Mr. Bowman married Miss Elizabeth Wilkerson, who was born in Clinton County, Ohio, but reared in Allen County, Indiana, her father, Thomas Wilkerson, being a resident of La Fayette Township. In 1869 Mr. Bowman engaged in the lumber business with his father in Allen and Huntington counties, continuing until 1878, when the firm became Ferguson & Bowman. In 1882 they transferred their business to its present location, Mr. Ferguson residing at Ferguson Station, Allen County. Mr. Bowman has charge of the railroad business at Murray Station. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, and Chapter No. 95. He is also a comrade of Lew Daily Post, G. A. R., at Bluffton.



BF. STARR, a progressive and enterprising farmer of Chester Township, was born in Chester Township, Wells County, Indiana, August 12, 1846, a son of Benjamin and Matilda (Popejoy) Starr. His father was a native of Virginia, and when three years of age was brought by his parents to Hocking County, Ohio. There he was reared to manhood and was married in

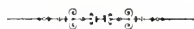
that county to his first wife. They came to Wells County among the early settlers, settling here in 1840 on a tract of eighty acres which Mr. Starr had entered in the spring of 1839. The land was entirely unimproved, not a tree having been cut on the place. The family came from Ohio to their new home in Wells County in an ox wagon. They made a brush shanty on their land, in which they lived until the father cleared a small space and erected a log cabin, into which they moved as soon as it was completed. Here Mr. Starr lost his wife the following spring, and was subsequently married to Matilda Popejoy, the mother of our subject, and both parents are still living in this county, enjoying the rest which they have so well earned by years of toil and industry. B. F. Starr, our subject, was reared and educated in Wells County, where he has always made his home. When twenty-six years of age his father gave him eighty acres of land of which twenty acres had been cleared. By persevering industry and good management he has prospered in his agricultural pursuits, and has added to his original eighty acres until his home farm in Chester Township now consists of 160 acres, of which 125 acres have been cleared, and beside this he owns sixty acres about a mile south of his home place, twelve acres of this tract being cleared. He has erected all the buildings on his land and made many substantial improvements about the place. January 14, 1872, Mr. Starr was united in marriage to Miss Sabina Nutler, a native of Hocking County, Ohio, whose father was an early settler of Wells County, Indiana. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Starr; four still living—Mary Blanche, Ora Otis, Oliver and Olive (twins). Levi is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Starr are members of the Methodist Protestant church. He is a trustee of Blanche Chapel, and is

Secretary of the Quarterly Conference, Salamonie Circuit, Indiana Conference. In politics he affiliates with the Prohibition party.



ROBERT W. WILEY, farmer and stock-raiser, was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, March 10, 1826, only son of John and Nancy (Athens) Wiley, also natives of Virginia. The father was a son of Robert Wiley, who was of Irish parentage. The mother was a daughter of Wilson Athens, who served during the entire war of the Revolution. In September, 1836, the parents of our subject left their native State and removed to Preble County, Ohio, where they resided two years, and then removed to Huntington County, Indiana, where they lived a short time, and finally settled upon the old Miles place in Jackson Township, this county, where the father entered eighty acres of Government land, and where the parents passed the remainder of their days. The father died March 14, 1857, at the age of fifty-five years and five months; the mother survived him several years. They were the parents of four children—Charlotte, wife of Samuel Grillith; Robert W.; Martha, wife of John Jones, and Eliza, who married Zebulon Stanton, and resides on the old homestead. During his youth our subject assisted his father in clearing and improving his farm, and he remained at home until he was twenty-five years old, receiving at that time from his father eighty acres of wild land in Jackson Township. He worked out about four years, then purchased 360 acres of wild land on section 1, Liberty Township, for which he paid \$3.50 per acre. The money he had earned by his own hard labor. April 27, 1855, he was married to Miss Sarah Jones, daughter of Enoch and Mary (Brier-

man) Jones, who removed from Highland County, Ohio, to Huntington County, this State, in an early day. After his marriage, Mr. Wiley rented land for about two years, then settled upon his present farm, which he has cleared and improved, and erected fine buildings. He now owns 280 acres of well-improved land, after helping his children to a good home. Mr. and Mrs. Wiley have had fourteen children, eight of whom are living—John, Mary E., Naney, Alexander, Mahala, Amanda, Perry and Charlotte J. The deceased are—Enoch, Henry, Jones, Martha E., and two died in early infancy. Mrs. Wiley died April 18, 1886, a worthy and consistent member of the Christian church. Politically Mr. Wiley is a Democrat.



JACOB BUSHEE, farmer, at Ossian, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 22, 1822, son of John and Sarah (Derrick) Bushee. His father was born in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, of French parentage, but being reared among the Germans in that county he learned their language. Far back in the history of the religious wars in Europe and during the prosecution of the war between the Catholics and Protestants, the great-great-grandfather of our subject was one of those who dared to assert his belief in a Power above that of the Pope. The great massacres which followed, in which rivers of innocent blood flowed on the streets, will be well remembered by every reader of history. One of the three men that escaped the merciless sword was the remote ancestor of our subject. The trio separated and Bushee alone made his way to the seacoast where a vessel lay at anchor. Concealing himself among the rocks used for ballast, he

lay for three days and nights before he allowed anyone to see him, the ship then being far away on the bosom of the sea. Search was made before the vessel sailed, and after she weighed anchor two other inspections were made, but his secure concealment baffled all discovery. He had been discovered by his enraged avengers prior to his getting on board the vessel, but fortune favored him; and to this circumstance is due the fact that a race of men was begun in America, not prolific, but noted in many ways. The discovery of Bushee almost caused a mutiny on board the ship. The captain desired to put about and deliver him to the authorities; but between passengers and crew a reconciliation was effected, and money was raised to pay his fare, and he was landed in New York. It is supposed that he made his way to Berks County, Pennsylvania, married and reared three sons. One of these sons was John, who married and became the father of three sons, one of whom was Jacob, the grandfather of our subject, who married Christina Landieh, who also bore three sons. John, the second son, and father of our subject, married Sarah Derrick, who bore three sons—Jacob, Richard and John W. The two latter died young. John had two brothers—Jacob and Isaac, who also married and had three sons. Each of Isaac's sons were married and in turn became fathers of three sons. Jacob Bushee, our subject, was married in Laurel Township, Hocking County, Ohio, to Miss Olive Cave, August 1, 1847, by David Barnhill, J. P. Her father, Rev. Emanuel Cave, was born in Kentucky, and was one of the first settlers of Ohio, and when married to Elizabeth Mounce was unable to read or write. His wife taught him to read, and after his conversion he united with the Methodist Episcopal church. His aptitude qualified him to preach the gospel, and for

sixty-six years he traveled and preached the Word to hundreds and thousands of people. His ministry closed with his death, but his last years were spent as a minister of the United Brethren church. In 1850 our subject came to this county, settling in Union Township. Twelve years later he purchased land in Jefferson Township. He cleared a seventy-acre farm in Ohio, and since coming to Indiana he has cleared enough land to amount to 300 acres, and at least fifty acres of this contained trees that were cut into logs, rolled and burned with his own hands. His location in Union Township was on the Indian Reserve, and his land was remote from roads. He cut his way to the tract, taking his wife and family into a rude log cabin near his land. Nearly all the men were young and robust fellows, and near his place was a settlement of Hocking County men, which he assisted in rolling logs and erecting their buildings, as well as the men in his immediate neighborhood. During the seven years following almost all the improvements were made. The clearings were divided into tracts, neighbors came in to help roll the logs, and were divided into squads under the leadership of a captain, and much rivalry was manifested among the different companies. Only a few men are now left who aided in the pioneer work of that day. It was then customary to take a "dram" while at work, as it seemed to stimulate to increased exertion among the men. Mr. Bushee, long used to clearing and rollings, was invariably chosen as a leader, and it is well known by men who were then participants that his squad was never second in the work. Perhaps no man now living has done more to aid the pioneers than Mr. Bushee, for his heart always had a kindly feeling for the sick or distressed. He aided in the building of almost all the early cabins.

One of the most peculiar circumstances of his life was a presentiment which caused him to save the life of a neighbor. Charles Earle, now a resident of Union Township, was dangerously ill. Mr. Bushee had watched by his bedside until he was worn out with fatigue and loss of sleep. Leaving the sick man in care of three watchers, he left the house and was to return the next evening. At two o'clock at night the presentiment came that he must go back and see the sick man. He arose and half-dressed himself, but concluded that it was all a dream, and it would seem silly to go, as he was not to return that night. After breakfast he shouldered his ax and began cutting a tree about a quarter of a mile distant from his house. But when half done the impression came so strongly upon him that he must hasten to the sick man, that he left his ax buried in the tree, ran to the house and as quickly as possible was on his way. With his horse at its highest speed he made the three and a half miles and arrived to find Earle pulseless, cold, and, to all appearances, dying. Used to emergencies, he applied stimulants externally and internally, and later was rewarded by seeing his patient regain consciousness. Had he not acted with such promptness Earle's death would most probably have occurred a few moments later. Mr. and Mrs. Bushee have eight children—Allen, Sarah E., William, Rhoda, James F., Matilda and Bethilda (twins), and Martha. The oldest son married Jane Woods, and she had three sons. Rhoda married William Amos Arnold. The other children are unmarried. This biography is one of the most remarkable on record, containing as it does the wonderful fact of several generations in which each father had three sons. Mr. Bushee has been one of the most active politicians in the northern part of Wells County, having frequently acted as

delegate to the county conventions and has frequently been one of the county central committee.

—❖—❖—❖—❖—❖—

WILLIAM ALLEN GUTELIUS, druggist, Bluffton, Indiana, was born in Pickerington, Fairfield County, Ohio, June 5, 1848, a son of John P. and Henrietta (Turner) Gutelins. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and left his native State in 1837 and lived in Ohio until 1868, when he came to Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, and became proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, which he continued until his death, which occurred July 15, 1871, at the age of seventy-three years. In politics he was a Democrat, and at one time was clerk of Union County, Pennsylvania. He held to no particular creed, and was a member of no church. The mother of our subject is a native of New York, but was reared in Columbus, Ohio, where she was taken by her parents when a child, in 1818, and was there married to Mr. Gutelius January 8, 1839, being the second wife. Since his death she has lived at Bluffton with her children. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Five of her eight children are living, all residents of Bluffton—Martha J., wife of R. Y. Saylor; Henrietta L., wife of M. M. Justus; William A.; Emma M., wife of Hon. J. S. Dailey, and Thomas H. William A. Gutelius was reared in Fairfield County, Ohio, and educated in the district schools and Fairfield Union Academy, at Pleasantville. When thirteen years of age he began in a measure to support himself, being for two years a newsboy in Columbus. When nineteen years old he began to teach school, and taught in Fairfield County, Ohio, and in Wells County, Indiana. In 1869 he en-

gaged in the hotel business with his father, which continued until the latter's death, and in 1871 he embarked in the drug business at Bluffton. Mr. Gutelius was married at Fort Wayne, Indiana, June 21, 1871, to Mary F. Buckles, daughter of John H. and Harriet S. (Vorris) Buckles. They have six children—William B., born May 10, 1872; Harry E., September 21, 1873; Hattie L., December 13, 1875; Nettie, April 13, 1877; Maud E., July 19, 1879, and Mary, August 13, 1885. Mr. Gutelius is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 114, I. O. O. F. His father was made a Mason in 1819, and at his death was one of the oldest members of the order in the State of Indiana.

—❖—❖—❖—❖—❖—

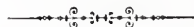
WINFIELD S. SETTLE, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Rockingham County, North Carolina, November 20, 1841, son of Josiah and Nancy A. (Graves) Settle, the former also a native of North Carolina and of Scotch-Irish descent, the latter a native of the same State, and of German ancestry. When Winfield was six years old his parents removed to Butler County, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood. In 1869 his father died at the age of seventy years. About 1877 his mother removed to Richmond, Indiana, where she still resides, aged seventy-two years. The father was formerly a merchant, but in Ohio he retired to a farm, where he passed the remainder of his days. Winfield was reared to farm life. He made his home in Butler County until 1869, then came to this county and located on 160 acres of land that he had previously purchased, in Nottingham Township, where he now lives. When he first came to his place he found thirty acres cleared. The improvements consisted of a log cabin, which



Wm. Garrett

is still standing and being used for storage. There was also a round pole stable, standing where his present residence now is. Since coming here he has added nineteen acres to his farm, and he now has about 105 acres cleared. He erected his present residence in the fall of 1881. He was married in Wells County, April 24, 1869, to Miss Elizabeth Alberson, a native of Adams County, and a daughter of Charles and Mary Ann (Brown) Alberson. Her father was born in Randolph County and is now deceased. Her mother is a native of Jay County, and resides in Nottingham Township. To this union have been born eight children—Nancy Ann, William Henry, Olive Cornelia, Winfield Scott, Thomas Josiah, James Edward, Charles and Walter Blain. January 26, 1864, Mr. Settle enlisted in Company F, Eighty-fourth Indiana Infantry. He went from Henry County to Indianapolis, where he was mustered in and went into camp. From there he went to Cleveland, Tennessee, the regiment being encamped at Blue Springs near that place, where he remained until the Buzzard Roost count, then returned and went into camp on the same ground as before, where he remained until the Atlanta campaign. His first engagement was at Tunnell Hill, then Resaca, Kingston, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Kennesaw Mountain, Pine Mountain, Neal Dow Church, Peach Tree Creek and Vining Station. At the latter place he was taken sick and was sent back to Marietta, Georgia, and a few days later to Chattanooga. Two weeks afterward he was sent to Lookout Mountain, where he remained about seven weeks, then received a ten days' furlough. At the expiration of his furlough he reported back to Lookout Mountain, and from there went to join his regiment at Huntsville, Alabama. They then went by train and marches to East Tennessee to intercept the flight of Lee when he should

be driven from the defenses at Richmond, but he surrendered without making an attempt to get away. They then went to Nashville, thence to Johnsonville, on the Tennessee River, thence by boat to New Orleans, thence to Texas, where he remained six months, thence to Leveae, on the Matagorda Bay, thence to Indianapolis, where they were discharged, and Mr. Settle reached his home in Ohio in January, 1866. At the discharge of the Eighty-fourth, his time not having expired, he was transferred to the Fifty-first Indiana, and mustered out with them at the close of the war. Mr. and Mrs. Settle are members of the United Brethren church, Mr. Settle having served as steward two years, class-leader three years, trustee eight years, and superintendent of the Sabbath-school over three years. He is an enthusiastic Republican, and has been chairman of the central committee of Nottingham Township since 1880. He is ex-officio member of the county committee.



WILLIAM JARRETT, of Chester Township, was born in Wayne County, Indiana, October 16, 1827, son of Jonas and Margaret (Blunt) Jarrett. His father was born, reared and married in Virginia, and his first wife died there. He afterward removed to Wayne County, Indiana, married there a second wife, who died in 1834. In February, 1837, he removed to Wells County, with two six-horse teams, where he had previously entered 240 acres of land, near where his son William now lives, on section 28, Chester Township. He had to clear a place to build his log cabin, and in the meantime his family occupied a cabin owned by Goldsmith Baldwin, who came here from Vermont, and who afterward

married one of Mr. Jarrett's daughters. Mr. Jarrett was a good hunter, and game was so plenty that it was not necessary to provide before hand. He could at any time go out in the morning, kill a deer, and get it ready for breakfast. He first went to Henry County to mill, taking four days for the trip. Afterward a horse-mill was started at Camden, and later a water-mill near Warren. Mr. Jarrett's daughter, Lovina, and John McCullick, were the first couple married in the county. The father died March 10, 1855, at the age of sixty-one years, and was buried in the Twibell cemetery, Blackford County. William was reared in Wells County from the age of ten years and has lived here for half a century. He was married March 15, 1845, to Miss Frances West, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of William West. He is a Democrat in politics, and has served three years as township trustee. His father was a life-long Democrat.

JOSIAH DAVIS, deceased, was born in Hocking County, Ohio, July 12, 1825, son of William and Sarah Davis, and of Welsh ancestry. He was reared on a farm, and when he was fourteen years of age his mother died, after which he began the battle of life for himself. He worked out by the day and month until he reached maturity. About the year 1848 he came to Wells County and purchased eighty acres of unimproved land on section 29, Harrison Township, which he began to clear and improve. January 20, 1854, he was married to Miss Harriet Groves, a daughter of Joseph Groves. They settled on the farm owned by Mrs. Davis' father and lived there three years, then removed to his own farm. By dint of perseverance and close attention to business,

he soon had his farm in a good state of cultivation, and he followed farming during the remainder of his days. Of their four children, three still survive—Edwin R., Emma A., wife of Lewis Coburn, and Henry Sherman. Mr. Davis was an active member of the United Brethren church, as is also his wife. Politically he affiliated with the Republican party. After an illness of over two years with cancer, he died September 3, 1886. His wife still reside on the old homestead.

JOSEPH GROVES, deceased, one of the early settlers of Wells County, was born in Pennsylvania, January 3, 1803, son of George and Susanna Groves, of German descent. When he was seven years of age he went with his parents to Fairfield, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. His early life was passed in assisting his father, who was a tanner and shoemaker by trade. He was married in Fairfield County to Miss Elizabeth Hoskinson, a daughter of Jonathan Hoskinson, who was born in Virginia and came with her parents to Ohio when quite young. After his marriage Mr. Groves resided in Ohio until the fall of 1839, when he came with his family to Wells County and entered 160 acres of Government land which was heavily timbered. They lived under a large oak tree until he had his cabin built. There were himself and family, two brothers and their families, and his father and mother, making twenty-one persons in all. Mr. Groves followed farming during the rest of his life, enduring all the hardships, trials and privations of pioneer life. Five of his nine children reached maturity, and two are now living—Mary married Jacob Stahl; Elizabeth, deceased, was the wife of John Van Horn;

Harriet married Josiah Davis, who is now deceased; Thomas Benton, deceased; Martha married John Groves and is now deceased; four died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Groves were active and consistent members of the United Brethren church. Mr. Groves died December 29, 1878, and Mrs. Groves died July 15, 1878.

THEODORE HORTON, M. D., is a native of New Jersey, born in the village of Chester, Morris County, October 28, 1823, a son of Elijah and Sarah Rose (Overton) Horton, natives of New Jersey. His father was a lawyer by profession, and at one time was judge on the bench in Allegany County, New York. He died in Oswego, Kosciusko County, Indiana, in 1880. His mother was the daughter of a Congregational clergyman, but at the time of her death was a member of the Universalist church. She died in Oswego, Indiana, in 1875. The Hortons are of English and the Overtons of French ancestry. Theodore Horton was reared in Allegany County, New York, where his parents located when he was ten years old. When he was twenty-one years old, in 1844, he accompanied them to Kosciusko County, Indiana, and for about two years taught school in Kosciusko and Elkhart counties. In 1846 he went to Fort Wayne to complete his medical studies which he had commenced at Nunda, New York, in 1841, with Dr. John Gilmore. He studied with Dr. Charles E. Sturgis in Fort Wayne, and under his preceptorship began the practice of his profession. During the winter of 1846-'47 he took a course of lectures at the Cincinnati Medical College, and in 1848 located in Bluffton, where he has since lived. He has had a long practice in Wells and

adjoining counties, and has made many warm friends. In 1878 he took a course of lectures at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City, graduating from that institution in the spring of 1879. In politics Dr. Horton is a Democrat. In 1849 he was appointed deputy treasurer of Wells County, by Dr. Courtney, holding the position one year. In 1854 he was appointed appraiser by the board of county commissioners for a term of five years, and the same year was elected to the State Senate to represent Wells and Huntington counties, and in 1861 he was elected a State Representative from Wells and Adams counties. In 1863 he was elected auditor of Wells County, serving one term of four years. On the breaking out of the Rebellion he was a prominent Democrat, and while making a political speech during a hotly contested canvass, and at a time when recruits were being obtained for the army, his language was objectionable to some of his opponents, and he was arrested by a United States Marshal, at midnight, being allured from home by the report that he was wanted a short distance in the country to perform a surgical operation. He was held a prisoner a few days, when he was discharged, there being no case against him. Two friends who had served with him in the State Senate were prisoners at the same time, and they had a jolly time while in the custody of the Government. Dr. Horton has always been an influential citizen of Bluffton, and in 1879 was elected a member of the city council, and has held the position several times since. He has been twice married. His first wife, from whom he was divorced, was Mary Rhoads. To them were born two children—Edwin R. and Mary. Edwin R. is now a physician, practicing with his father. In 1868 he married Elizabeth Case, a daughter of Almon Case, a pioneer of Wells

County. To them was born one daughter—Jennie. She died in 1876, aged seven years. Mrs. Horton died at Bluffton, aged forty-two years. Dr. Horton was a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 114, K. of P.

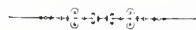
JOHN J. PRIBLE, farmer, Liberty Township, was born in Eaton, Preble County, Ohio, December 28, 1832, son of Enoch M. and Lydia (York) Prible. The father was born in Kentucky, son of Benjamin Prible, who was of English ancestry. The mother was a daughter of Jephthah York, and was born in Ohio. When John J. was four years old his parents removed to Huntington County, Indiana, where the father entered a tract of Government land three miles west of where Warren now stands. He passed his youth in assisting his father in clearing and improving the farm, and in attending the subscription schools that were taught in the primitive log school-house. The first house in which he attended school stood on his father's farm. It had no floor, and greased paper was used for windows. When he was eight years old his father died, and his mother subsequently married Noah McGrew, with whom he resided until he was seventeen years of age. At that time he commenced working for himself, working by the month on a farm, and he also worked four years in a carding-mill. He was married December 28, 1854, to Miss Maria A. Becker, daughter of Peter and Lydia Becker, who came from Cayuga County, New York, when she was about seven years of age, settling in Huntington County, this State. After his marriage Mr. Prible settled upon the land his father had entered from the Government, and has followed farming ever since. July 20, 1861, he removed to this county and pur-

chased 160 acres of heavily-timbered land on section 5, Liberty Township, and commenced the work of clearing and improving a farm. December 5, 1863, he enlisted in Company A, Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry, going to Indianapolis, thence to Huntsville, Alabama, the following summer. He participated in the battles of Nashville and Mobile, then went to Columbus, Mississippi, where he remained until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged and mustered out of the service November 18, 1865, at Vicksburg. He then returned to his home in Wells County and continued farming. He now owns 320 acres of well-improved land, in a good state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Prible have had five children—Byron H., Lurany, wife of John T. Buekner; Lueretia H., James, and Flora Jane, who died at the age of four years and nine months. Both are members of the Disciple church. Mr. Prible is a Republican in politics, and is a member of King Lodge, No. 246, A. F. & A. M.

ROBERT CURRY, deceased, was one of the earliest pioneers of Zanesville. He entered the land upon which his widow now resides in 1847. This tract was a portion of the Indian Reserve. Mr. Curry was born in Preble County, Ohio, and was a son of John and Nancy (Downey) Curry. John Curry's father was also named John. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and removed to Preble County, where he was married to Nancy Downey, and they had six children, four of whom were reared—Robert, Josiah, Martha and Elizabeth. Robert was reared on the farm, and learned the art of pioneering in detail. His accumulated savings were barely sufficient to pay for his entry of 120 acres of land in Wells

County, but with a determination to have a home of his own, in March, 1850, he moved upon his land in the wild woods of Wells County, which three years before had been the home of the Pottawatomie Indians. There was no road cut through the woods, but Robert made his way to his lands, found a suitable location and built his cabin near the place where their present home was built. Nothing now remains to mark the place where their early life was passed and where so many happy days were experienced, save the ancient chimney. Robert was a bachelor when he built his cabin, and he was in a measure prepared for housekeeping before he thought of getting a wife. James Gardner with his family had located near Murray in the fall of 1849, coming from Wayne County, Ohio. Neighbors were not numerous, and religious services were held at the most central point. Robert was a member of the United Presbyterian church, and services were held regularly at Murray. He there formed the acquaintance of Miss Elizabeth Gardner, daughter of James and Jane (McCauley) Gardner, and March 2, 1852, they were married at the residence of her parents in Lancaster Township, Samuel Caley, Esq., performing the ceremony. March 8 found them domiciled in the log cabin, and the young couple were ready to begin life in earnest. Children came to gladden their home. John Irvin, Martha J. and James G. were born in their cabin home, and its walls were rendered doubly sacred by the death of their first-born and the youngest child. The first was almost four years of age, and the daughter two years of age. Notwithstanding their bereavements the family lived contentedly, and their hopes centered upon their son James, who grew to manhood to be the joy of his father and the idol of his mother. He was reared to manhood, and prosperity

came before the death of the father, which occurred November 16, 1883, aged sixty-five years. His son took charge of the farm, and January 7, 1886, was married to Miss Naomi, daughter of Elijah and Lybia (McGuire) Jacobs, residents of Union Township. They settled on the home farm and never knew the hardships which came to those who first settled in the new country. Charles Irvin, their first son, was born on the home farm within a few rods of the birth-place of his father. The widowed mother is an inmate of their household.



LEONIDAS H. FETTERS, of Harrison Township, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, December 13, 1849, the fourth son and seventh child of Thomas and Sarah (Bright) Fetters, who were natives of Ohio, grandparents of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. He was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which occurred December 15, 1870, with Miss Eliza Huber, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Fisher) Huber. She was born in Fairfield County, Ohio. Her mother was from Ohio, and her father from Pennsylvania, and of German descent. After his marriage Mr. Fetters settled upon the farm of his mother-in-law, and lived there until the fall of 1874, when, November 6, he came to Wells County and settled upon a tract of timber land on section 28, Harrison Township, which was entered from the Government by a man named Weekly, and was then transferred to the father of Mr. Fetters. He has since lived on this farm, and has improved it until it now contains ninety acres of land under cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Fetters have five children—Walter, Cora,

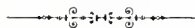
Daisy, Carrie and Ethel. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. March 20, 1886, a cyclone passed over the eastern part of the place causing great destruction.

H. II. REED, farmer, was born in Stark County, Ohio, son of Henry and Wilhelmina ('lick) Reed. Henry was a native of Pennsylvania, and his parents were among the pioneer families of Stark County. They reared a family of eleven children, and passed the remainder of their lives in Stark County. Jacob, the grandfather, was a soldier in the war of 1812. Henry Reed was married in Stark County, and during their residence in that State their seven children were born—Sinson, Leah, Henry, George, Franklin, Lucy and Adaline. Henry married Martha M. Fohl, George married Frances Myers, Lucy A. became the wife of Henry Dobins and Adaline the wife of Washington Henderson. The family immigrated to Indiana in 1868, and are now residents of this State. Henry Reed, Sr., settled in Pleasant Township, Allen County, where his death occurred in 1883, his wife having preceded him two years. Our subject learned the carpenter's trade in Ohio, and was a contractor and builder for several years before leaving that State. His marriage with Martha M. Fohl was celebrated in 1858, and in the autumn of 1862 he left his young wife and enlisted in Company K, Seventy-sixth Ohio Infantry, as a private. His regiment was assigned to duty and became a part of the great Army of the Tennessee, which did such noble service during the war. Captain James M. Jay commanded his company; Steele was Major. Mr. Reed participated in the battle at Arkansas Post, siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, and numer-

ous other engagements, receiving no wound; but his illness was caused by fatigue and exposure. After his discharge in 1863 he returned to his home in Ohio, where he followed his trade until his removal to this State in 1867. He located in Union Township, Wells County, and for several years worked at his trade, dividing his time between his trade and clearing a farm of forty acres. He built the "Nunnemaker" school-house, in Allen County, the large barn of Daniel Fisher, in Union Township, and was the architect and builder of the fine barns that stand on his present farm in Jefferson Township, Wells County, which he purchased in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have had nine children—John, Wesley and Harvey were born in Ohio; Jennina, Franklin, Ella, William, Cora and Bethilda were born in this State. Jennina married John W. Lee, a farmer, of this county; Harvey married Martha Woods, of Allen County, and they now reside in this county; Wesley is a mechanic, and carries on a carriage manufactory at Zanesville, Indiana. All of Mrs. Reed's family that are living reside in Ohio. Mr. Reed was elected justice of the peace of Jefferson Township in 1880, and served his term faithfully and well. He has been a member of the Republican party since its organization, and a member of the Church of God for twenty-eight years; he has been an elder in that church most of the time since he became a member.

JAMES HOGG, a son of John and Margaret (Torrence) Hogg, was born in County Donegal, Ireland, the date of his birth being in the year 1838. His father was born in 1803, a son of James and Jane (Taylor) Hogg, the former being a son of

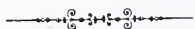
George and Jane (Finley) Hogg and of Scotch descent. The mother of our subject was a daughter of Joseph and Ann (Ward) Torrence. The parents of our subject were married in 1837, and to them were born seven children—James, Joseph, deceased; Charles, still living in Ireland; Ann Eliza, deceased; Jane, living in Ireland; Margaret and John. Mrs. Hogg died September 1, 1866, aged fifty-eight years. In 1873 James Hogg, our subject, and his father, immigrated to America, where he purchased his present farm in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, where his father is making his home with him. He was united in marriage February 3, 1874, to Miss Elizabeth Torrence, a daughter of Francis and Sarah (Gregg) Torrence, who left their native country, County Donegal, Ireland, for America in 1850. Mr. and Mrs. Hogg are the parents of three children—Sarah, John H. and Francis W. Mr. Hogg is a thorough, practical farmer, as is well attested by his highly cultivated and improved farm, which contains eighty acres of choice land, and by his industrious habits and fair and honorable dealings he has gained the respect of all who know him. In his political views he affiliates with the Republican party. Both he and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church.



SAMUEL J. McAFEE resides on section 4, Lancaster Township, where he has one of the best improved farms in his part of the county. His fine residence was erected in 1886, and his farm buildings are correspondingly good, the entire surroundings of the place proving the owner to be a thorough, practical farmer. The homestead was first opened by his father, James McAfee,

who was the first man to introduce under-drainage in Wells County, which he did in 1855. The farm, consisting of eighty-four acres, contains 1,200 rods of tile drainage. The parents of our subject, James and Rachel (Dinsmore) McAfee, were born in County Antrim, Ireland, and were descendants of the Scotch Covenanters. Immediately after their marriage they came to America, and for a short time made their home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Samuel J. was born December 29, 1829. Soon after his birth they removed to Wayne County, Ohio, where the mother died in 1844, and in 1853 the father came to Wells County, Indiana, with his family. He was married again, taking for his second wife Miss Eliza Cherry. He died on the old homestead in Lancaster Township, July 9, 1861, in his fifty-eighth year. William J. McAfee, a brother of our subject, lives at Bluffton. He has two step-sisters, Mrs. Matilda J. Earl, living in Lancaster, and Hannah M. Samuel J. McAfee was reared on the home farm in Lancaster Township, remaining there until his marriage September 28, 1865, to Miss Rachel Nelson, who was born in Wells County, a daughter of James and Elizabeth Nelson, of Lancaster Township, her parents being pioneers of the county. She died November 9, 1871, leaving two daughters, Etta A. and Florence E. Mr. McAfee was married a second time, September 29, 1873, to Miss Catherine Maddux, born in Lancaster Township, December 28, 1848, a daughter of Jacob and Anna Maddux, and to this union were born two sons—Ernest W. and Jacob M. Mr. Maddux came from Miami County, Ohio, to Wells County in the pioneer days, and settled on section 9, Lancaster Township, in 1838, where he entered 160 acres of Government land. He was a native of Pennsylvania. After clearing a little of his land and erecting a cabin

in Lancaster Township, he married Anna Evans, whom he brought to his pioneer home. To them were born five children—John N. died after reaching manhood; Martha J., wife of W. J. Parkinson, of Lancaster Township; Catherine, wife of our subject; Sarah, wife of Elijah Miller, of Lancaster Township, where he lives on part of the old homestead, and Alice, wife of Isaiah Bush, who also lives on the old homestead. The parents lived to an advanced age, the father dying February 9, 1884, at the age of sixty-six years, and the mother dying two months later at the age of sixty-five years. For two years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McAfee lived on rented land on section 8, Lancaster Township, when they went to Allen County. One year later they returned to Wells County, to the old homestead of his parents, of which he is now the owner, and here they have since made their home. Both are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. McAfee has always been a Republican.



LEMORE Y. STURGIS, editor of the *Bluffton Banner*, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, April 25, 1836. Arriving at the age of fourteen, he was employed for a year in the auditor's and clerk's offices of his native county. Soon after arriving with his father at Bluffton, in May, 1852, he commenced teaching, his first school being in an old log school-house in Lancaster Township, near where Lemuel Paynter now lives. This profession he followed steadily for a number of years, namely, three years near Stenbenville, Jefferson County, Ohio, also his homedistrict schools and two seasons in Bluffton. In the spring of 1860 he married Mary S. McKinney, who died in the autumn of 1861, leaving

a daughter, now Mrs. Tida May Sowards, of Wells County. After his marriage Mr. Sturgis taught school in Bluffton, and from among his pupils he can now number some of its most prominent and useful citizens. In September, 1861, he enlisted in the army, from Wells County, in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana, under Colonel James R. Slack, and remained in the service three years and three months, being discharged December 31, 1864. He was promoted from the ranks to the position of Sergeant, Orderly Sergeant, First Lieutenant, and to that of Captain October 3, 1862. In the war chapter there is given a brief account of the battles and other services in which his regiment was engaged. At the battle of Champion Hills he received a serious wound. Returning from the fields of carnage Mr. Sturgis, in 1865, began farming, which he continued until 1879, when, having been elected county auditor the spring previous, he moved to Bluffton in order to fulfill the duties of the office. On the close of his term as auditor he took charge of the *Banner*, August 1, 1883, in company with Dr. A. G. Gorrell and J. J. Gorrell, and a year later he became sole proprietor, which place he now maintains, with satisfaction to his party and credit to himself and the community which he serves. Mr. Sturgis was a delegate to the State Democratic Convention which nominated Gray for Governor, and also to other State and district conventions. He is an uncompromising Democrat and has the fullest faith in the correctness and soundness of the principles of that party in its application to county, State and national affairs. October 4, 1865, in Wells County, Mr. Sturgis married Matilda J. Markley, who was born in this county, September 18, 1848, a daughter of John and Melinda (Wilson) Markley. The children by this marriage are—Charles E., who was born



E. D. Sturgis

September 15, 1867, and will soon complete the course of study at De Pauw University, including law; Linnie B., born August 27, 1869; Morna S., August 17, 1873; Will Carleton, October 9, 1877, and Ray, April 6, 1880. In Freemasonry, Mr. Sturgis has received the thirty-second degree, is a member of Bluffton lodge and chapter, Fort Wayne Commandery of Knights Templar, Consistory of Indianapolis; a member of the Knights of Honor, and of the order of the Eastern Star, to which last Mrs. Sturgis also belongs. He is also a member of Lew Daily Post, G. A. R., of Bluffton, and, when farming, was a member of the Grange organization.

EDWIN R. HORTON, M. D., son of Dr. Theodore and Mary (Rhoads) Horton, was born at Bluffton, Indiana, February 17, 1849. He attended the Bluffton public schools until he was sixteen years old, when he was sent to Fort Dodge, Iowa, and attended the Union High School six months. He then returned to Indiana and clerked in a store in Rochester a year, when he entered Notre Dame College at South Bend, Indiana, where he remained six months. He then taught school until 1875, when he began the study of medicine with Dr. Cornelius Hector, of Rochester, Indiana, and was under his preceptorship three years. He took two courses of lectures at the Eclectic Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated in March, 1878, and the same year returned to Bluffton and became associated in practice with his father as T. Horton & Son. In politics Dr. Horton is a Democrat. During the winter of 1862-63 he was a page in the House of Representatives at Indianapolis. He is a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights

of Pythias and Knights of Honor orders. September 27, 1871, he was married at Rochester, Indiana, to Miss Olie A. Hector, daughter of Dr. Cornelius and M. J. (McKim) Hector. They have two children—Grace Allen, born December 4, 1873, and Lenore, born July 27, 1879.

LEVI NUTTER was born in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, March 25, 1843, son of Benjamin S. and Margaret (Martin) Nutter. His father was born in Virginia, and at the age of twelve years, his father having died, he removed with his mother to Hocking County, Ohio, and about 1840 removed to this county. He entered forty acres of land in Nottingham Township, where James Williams now resides. This land was covered with a heavy growth of timber. He commenced at once to make a clearing, and with the logs cut down erected his first cabin. He was very fond of hunting, and as wild game was plenty he found plenty to do in that line. He had to go twenty miles for corn, then carry it on his back to Bluffton for grinding. Horses were very scarce. One was occasionally brought from Ohio, but would go back when opportunity offered. He lived to see the day when all game was driven out, stock of all kinds was plenty, and the country all settled. He was quite homesick, however, and made twenty-four trips back and forth to Hocking County in a covered wagon. He died April 19, 1883. The mother of our subject was born in Ohio, near the Big Sandy River. Levi was reared in this county, and this has always been his home with the exception of two years spent in Coles County, Illinois. When he was ten years old his mother died, but he continued to live with his father until

he reached his majority. In 1877 he bought eighty acres of land, which is his present home, it being partially cleared. There were no buildings, and these he has erected. He was married March 8, 1866, to Miss Margaret E. Blair, born in Seneca County, Ohio, and daughter of Isaac and Margaret (Weeks) Blair. Her father was a native of Ross County, Ohio, and removed to Wells County, this State, in 1845, where the mother died in 1873, and the father in 1880. To this union were born ten children, of whom one, Margaret, is deceased. Those living are—Robert, Elizabeth, Sabina, Jesse, Mollie, Alice, James B., Stella, May and Levi. Mr. Nutter entered the service of the Union in 1863, as a member of Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and was attached to the Thirteenth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland. He followed the fortunes of that division from the time of the taking of Vicksburg till the close of the war, participating in the last fight of the Rebellion at Forts Spanish and Blakely and the capture of Mobile. He was discharged in 1865 and returned home. Mr. Nutter is a Democrat in politics, and has held the offices of road superintendent and township trustee two years each. He owns 117 acres of land, of which ninety acres are cleared. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren church, and he is a class-leader of the congregation at Good Hope.

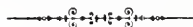
the common schools. He remained at home with his parents until his marriage, which occurred January 1, 1875, with Miss Elizabeth Douglass, daughter of the Rev. Alexander and Jane M. (Miller) Douglass, who were among the pioneers of Wells County. After his marriage Mr. Ellingham resided on his father's farm one year, then purchased his present farm on section 17, Harrison Township, where he has 120 acres of well-cultivated and well-improved land. Mrs. Ellingham is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically Mr. Ellingham was formerly a Republican, but now affiliates with the National party.

DAVID NOE, one of the early settlers of Chester Township, was born in Clermont County, Ohio, twenty-five miles east of Cincinnati, the date of his birth being December 29, 1818. His father, Searing Noe, was a native of North Carolina, born in Surry County, and when two years of age was taken by his parents to Ohio, his father working at the shoemaker's trade at Cincinnati some eight or ten years while the family lived on the farm in Clermont County. There Searing Noe was reared to the avocation of a farmer, which he followed the greater part of his life. He was married in Clermont County to Miss Margaret McFalls, who was born near Redstone, Virginia, of Irish descent. When David Noe, our subject, was in his fifth year his parents settled in Rush County, Indiana, where the mother died in 1842. The father subsequently sold his property in Rush County and removed to Wapello County, Iowa, where he lived until his death, which occurred about the year 1862. David Noe remained with his parents in Rush County until he was sixteen years of

THEODORE ELLINGHAM, farmer, Harrison Township, was born in Rock Creek Township, this county, September 2, 1851, the eldest son and third child of Charles and Hannah Ellingham. His youth was spent in assisting his father in clearing his heavily-timbered farm and in attending

age, where he was reared amid pioneer scenes in that new-settled country. Game was then found in abundance, and much of his time was spent in trapping and hunting. After leaving home he went to live with a great uncle in Montgomery County, Ohio, and while a resident of that county was married near Fort Defiance, Ohio, to Miss Harriet Goodnoe, May 31, 1846. She was born in Madison County, Indiana. Her father came from the State of Massachusetts, and her mother from Pennsylvania. Her father died in Butler County in 1834, and her mother died in Madison County, Indiana, in 1842, while on a visit to the old home place. Of the seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Noe, one daughter, Louesia, is deceased. Those living are—Mary, wife of Martin Baker, of Jackson Township; Oliver married Cynthia Jane Penrod, and lives in Chester Township; Oscar, living in Liberty Township; Ida, wife of Christopher H. Popejoy, of Liberty Township; Hattie, wife of O. D. Garrett, of Liberty Township, and Ettie, living at home with her parents. In 1852 Mr. Noe came by team to Indiana, bringing his family and household effects in three wagons. They settled on the place in Chester Township where they now reside, Mr. Noe having purchased eighty acres of land here in October, 1837. Before bringing his family here he had hired a man to build him a log cabin. This dwelling was of the rudest description, built without doors or windows, a quilt covering the aperture where the door should be. Mr. Noe did not hunt much after coming to Indiana, although he killed several deer in the early days of the county. He has cleared about sixty acres of his land, and his present farm dwellings and out-buildings are comfortable and commodious, all the improvements on the place being done by Mr. Noe. In politics Mr. Noe has been a life-

long Democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren in 1840. He has served two terms as assessor of Chester Township, and once was elected justice of the peace, but declined the office. He was a member of the Democratic Central Committee in Chester Township shortly after coming to the county. He is an active and enterprising citizen, and is always interested in the advancement of his township or county, and during his long residence in the county has gained the respect of all who know him.



JOHN WASSON, a representative of one of the pioneer families of Wells County, and an enterprising farmer of Lancaster Township, was born in Stark County, Ohio, the date of his birth being December 18, 1831. He has lived since his tenth year on the property he now owns and occupies, on section 11, Lancaster Township, where his parents, George and Sarah (Ash) Wasson, commenced opening a farm in 1841. He was married January 29, 1859, to Miss Rebecca Kunkle, a daughter of Michael and Catherine Kunkle. She was born in Crawford County, Ohio, November 15, 1836. Her father died in Ohio in her girlhood, and in 1855 her mother came to Wells County, Indiana, where she lived until her death, which occurred June 13, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Wasson are the parents of two children—William Henry, living at home, and Sarah C., wife of Norval J. Kleinknight, of Lancaster Township. The parents of our subject were natives of Ireland and of Scotch descent. They were reared and married in their native country, and shortly after their marriage came to the United States, and after a short residence in Stark County, Ohio, removed to Wayne County in the same State. They lived

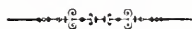
in Wayne County until establishing their home on section 11 of Lancaster Township in 1811, which is now owned by our subject. George Wasson also owned 160 acres, which he entered from the Government, located on section 1 of the same township, which is now owned and occupied by his sons, Thomas and James. The father died January 27, 1855, aged fifty-five years. His widow still survives, and is living with her son John, at the age of eighty-two years. Two of her daughters, Jane and Isabella, are residents of Lancaster Township.

HEZEKIAH ALLEN was born in Montgomery County, New York, October 6, 1807, a son of Ebenezer and Abigail (Slooom) Allen. The father was born on the Isle of Prudence, Rhode Island, and was a son of Rev. William Allen, who married Mollie Fairbanks. They were residents of Rhode Island during the Revolutionary war, and most of their property was destroyed by the British soldiers at that time. Commodore Perry was a classmate of Ebenezer Allen, and a strong friendship existed between them. Ebenezer Allen married Abigail Slooom previous to his location in Montgomery County. They had fourteen children—William, Sallie, Samuel, Sebra, Rachel, Ebenezer, Henry, Hezekiah, Stephen, Abbie, Jonathan, Rhoda, Mary and Matthew. The family settled in Wethersfield, Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1818, where the father entered a tract of woodland and lived there for several years, and where the mother died. Later the family removed to Jackson Township. Ebenezer's second wife was Jane Wochard, and they had one daughter—Lydia. Ebenezer returned to York State, and while there was married to Sallie Card. They returned to Ohio and

settled in Fowler, where his death occurred in a few years. Our subject was eleven years of age when his people settled in Trumbull County. He early learned to work, as his father was a poor man with a large family. He distinctly remembers the war of 1812, and the soldiers on their way to Sackett's Harbor passed through the field in which the children were hoeing corn. Hezekiah worked by the day at odd jobs, until he was eighteen years of age, then began working on the Cuyahoga Canal. For several years he was engaged in building different canals, and was twenty-nine years of age before his marriage with Sarah Rinear, daughter of Rev. Edmund and Mary (Noreross) Rinear, who were natives of New Jersey. The marriage of our subject took place November 10, 1836, and the young couple began housekeeping on a tract of land in Jackson Township. Their children born in Ohio were—Jonathan, Mary J., Ransom, Elizabeth (deceased) and Isaac. After the family came to Indiana in 1847, Hannah and Rhoda were born. Their location was made in Jefferson Township, and the family moved into a log cabin that was built by Matthew Allen. The lands were all cleared after the family settled, and were entered by Mr. Allen on the Indian Reserve. The patents for 236 acres were signed by President Zachary Taylor. The woods were full of deer, turkeys and squirrels, and Mr. Allen was a great lover of the chase. He has killed 140 deer, besides other game in large quantities. One of the most ferocious animals ever seen in Wells County was killed by Mr. Allen. It had been seen many times by different individuals, and had chased George Eddy the same season it was killed. Mr. Allen had a large bull-dog which was noted in the neighborhood as was his master. The animal came into the stockyard, and was soon discovered by Mr. Allen and his dog,

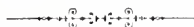
which caught the animal just as he was getting through the fence. Armed with a club, Mr. Allen ran to the rescue and soon knocked it senseless. Recovering somewhat, Mr. Allen caught it by the neck, opened his knife with his teeth, and cut the animal's throat. This desperate encounter occurred about three o'clock in the morning, when every neighbor was at home and asleep; but the neighborhood was rid of a genuine terror. Many persons came to see the carcass, which was afterward skinned and the hide tanned, and was used a long time by Mr. Allen for a saddle blanket, always proud of his trophy. All their children are married except Jonathan. Mary J. became the wife of Jacob Clark; Ransom married Elizabeth Todd; Isaac became the husband of Nancy Wilson, and Emma married Perkins Scott. All have children. Mr. Allen has been three times married. His second wife was formerly Elizabeth Hashman, and they had two children—Ida and Jasper N. The third wife was Mrs. Mary A. (Jennings) Reed, who had one child—Emma, now the wife of Pearl Scott. Ransom and Isaac were soldiers during the late civil war. Ransom was a member of the Thirtieth Indiana, and Isaac of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry. Ransom was slightly wounded during his term of service, but Isaac received no wound, although he was in some of the severest battles of the war. The aged sire was as full of patriotism as were his sons, and offered his services, but his sons were before him in getting their names on the muster roll, and he was forced to remain. After his return from the war, Isaac married the sister of his messmate, Cyrus Wilson. They have two children living—Sarah and Cyrus. Our subject is now over eighty years old, and one of the most voluble and interesting talkers in the township. He is one of the old-time story-tellers,

and dearly loves his pipe. He is as fond of a fishing-rod as a youth of seventeen. He was one of the founders of the Republican party in this county, and voted for their first candidate. His first presidential vote was cast for John Quincy Adams against Andrew Jackson.



BLUFERT HENRY COOK, M. D., of Bluffton, was born in Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, December 6, 1856, a son of Henry and Eliza A. (Deaver) Cook, who were natives of Germany and Ohio respectively. The father received a liberal education in his native county and was a man of more than ordinary ability. He immigrated to America when a young man, and after living in various places in Ohio and Indiana came to Bluffton, Wells County, in 1850. He was then employed in the store of John Studabaker, of Bluffton, for several years, when he engaged in the hardware business at Bluffton, which he carried on for seventeen years, after which he was in no particular business, but was employed as bookkeeper at times until his death, which occurred at Bluffton in 1879, at the age of sixty-three years. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity. In his religious views he was a Lutheran. The mother of our subject came to Bluffton with her parents when quite young, and was married here to Mr. Cook in 1852. She still survives her husband, and is making her home with her children at Bluffton. She is a member of the Bluffton Methodist Episcopal church. L. H. Cook, the subject of this sketch, was reared to manhood in Bluffton and attended the public school until he was eighteen years of age. After leaving school he was employed for three years at Bluffton as assistant

freight agent for the Fort Wayne, Muncie & Cincinnati Railroad Company. He was engaged in the grocery business at Bluffton from 1877 until 1880, when he began the study of medicine under Dr. C. T. Melshelmer. He subsequently attended three regular courses at the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati, and graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D., in the class of 1885, receiving the third honor in a class of seventy-five students. In March, 1885, he began practicing medicine at Bluffton, and has met with unusual success, and bids fair to rank among the leading physicians of his county. Dr. Cook was married at Bluffton, April 15, 1886, to Miss Clara Belle Laey, who was a daughter of Rev. H. J. and Lizzie Laey, of Bluffton. She died of typhoid fever July 30, 1886. She was a lady of many accomplishments, and esteemed by all who knew her. She was educated at the high school at Portland, Indiana, and was a graduate of the Fort Wayne Musical Conservatory. She was a member of the Bluffton Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Cook is a member of the same church. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, A. F. & A. M.



JOHAN ROBERTS was born March 8, 1848, in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, where he is now engaged in farming and stock-raising. His father, Robert Roberts, was born in Kentucky, February 23, 1811, a son of William Roberts. The father of our subject grew to manhood in his native State, where he was married January 28, 1836, to Miss Nancy Brown, by whom he had two children. In the spring of 1837 he started for Wells County, Indiana, where he entered 120 acres of Government land on section 32, Rock

Creek Township, and began the task of clearing and improving his frontier farm, and from time to time added to it until he had 200 acres, which he brought under a high State of cultivation. His wife died August 10, 1840, and he was subsequently married to Mrs. Abigail Sparks, whose maiden name was Redding. She was born December 12, 1815. To this union were born five children, three of whom yet survive. Robert Roberts was again bereaved by the loss of his wife, who died April 8, 1862. He was again married to Miss Mahala Redding, who is yet living on the old homestead. Mr. Roberts died February 5, 1880. He served as township trustee, and held other local offices of trust and responsibility. Politically he affiliated with the Democratic party. He was a member of the New Light church. John Roberts, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the home farm, residing with his parents until his marriage. His education was obtained in the common schools of his native township. September 18, 1873, he was married to Miss Mary J. Mills, a daughter of Samuel and Eliza J. (Gilmore) Mills. Her father was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, a son of Andrew Mills, who was a native of Ireland, and her mother was born in Virginia, a daughter of James Gilmore, a native of Scotland. Her parents were married in 1842, and in 1846 immigrated to Indiana, settling in Huntington County, where Mrs. Roberts was born May 16, 1850, and where Mr. Mills died October 6, 1874, aged fifty-three years. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, of whom only one survives, a daughter, named Annie Jane. Their first born died in infancy, and their youngest, Ellie, died aged five months. After his marriage Mr. Roberts settled on his farm on section 31, Rock Creek Township, where he has

since followed agricultural pursuits. To his original purchase of forty acres of partially improved land he has since added until his farm now contains 249 acres all well improved and under fine cultivation. In his political views Mr. Roberts is a Democrat.

GEORGE E. HARROLD, an enterprising farmer of Chester Township, was born in Forsyth County, North Carolina, March 31, 1837, a son of Ithamer and Ruth (Clampitt) Harrold. His parents were born, reared and married in the State of North Carolina, remaining in that State until 1852, when they started with the family by team for Indiana, and after a journey of six weeks arrived in Wells County, where they settled in Jackson Township. The father lived in Wells County until his death, which occurred June 29, 1882. His widow still survives, and is making her home with her son, Dr. John R. Harrold, in Blackford County. George E. Harrold, our subject, was fifteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Wells County, and with the exception of about four years has since been a resident of the county. He was united in marriage November 6, 1858, to Miss Sallie Minnich, a native of Clarke County, Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob and Christina (Ebersole) Minnich. Her parents removed from Ohio to Indiana in 1842, being among the early settlers of the county, where the mother died about 1858. The father is still living in Jackson Township. Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Harrold three are living—Isaac R., in Blackford County; Alfred R. and James R. Belle and two infants unnamed are deceased. Mrs. Harrold died February 13, 1870, and November 5, 1870, Mr. Harrold married Miss Mary M. Min-

nich, who was also born in Wabash County, Indiana. To this union have been born eleven children, of whom six are living—Rosetta, Charly, Oscar, Eva, Della and Ida. Those deceased are—Delmar, May, Arlow, Arlie and Lula. In 1863 Mr. Harrold bought forty acres of land in Chester Township, and after clearing most of this tract, sold it in the spring of 1866 and went to Missouri. He returned to Wells County the same year and bought eighteen acres of land in Jackson Township, most of this land being cleared. Three years later he sold his land in Jackson Township, buying forty acres of his present farm, but for the three years following lived in Huntington County. When he bought his farm in Chester Township but little improvement had been made on the place, only fifteen acres having been cleared. His home farm now contains sixty acres, all but five acres cleared, the result of his own labors. In politics Mr. Harrold is a Republican, having voted that ticket since the organization of that party. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Warren Lodge, No. 246, A. F. & A. M.

ALBERT OPPENHEIM, agent for the American Express Company and operator in charge of the Western Union Telegraph office at Bluffton, is a native of that city, born October 8, 1855, a son of Signmund and Mary J. (Niblick) Oppenheim. His father being a merchant his youth when not in school was spent in the store. When fifteen years old he began to learn the printer's trade in the office of the Bluffton *Banner*, at which he worked three years, when he began to take instructions in telegraphy in the railway telegraph office of the Fort Wayne, Muncie & Cincinnati Company, at

Bluffton, and since May, 1882, has been local manager of the Western Union office. From 1881 till 1885 he was associated with his father in the manufacture of cigars, and in 1887 was appointed agent for the American Express Company. Mr. Oppenheim was married in 1876 to Miss Alice O. Davis, a daughter of Jared and Elizabeth Davis, of Cincinnati. They have two children—Blanche and Ethel. Mrs. Oppenheim is a member of the Universalist church. Mr. Oppenheim is a member of the Masonic fraternity, lodge and chapter, and the Knights of Pythias and Knights of Honor.

JAMES REUBEN BENNETT, grocer, of Bluffton, Indiana, was born in Gallatin County, Kentucky, December 13, 1836. His parents, Abner and Letitia (Gill) Bennett, were natives of Bracken County, Kentucky, of Scotch descent. In 1835 they moved to Gallatin County, and from there in 1849 moved to Indiana, settling first in Huntington, Huntington County, and removing thence in April, 1851, to Jackson Township, Wells County. At that time the country was very sparsely settled, being dotted here and there with a log cabin, where the sturdy woodman's ax could be heard in all directions opening up the then dense forests. In 1853 they sold out and removed to a farm on the Salamonie River in the same township, on which farm they lived until 1873, when the parents of James R. moved to Bluffton, where the father died September 8 of the same year, aged sixty-three years. The mother still lives, at the age of seventy-three years. They were the parents of five children—James R., William F., who died aged six years; Columbus A. was killed September 23, 1863, at the battle

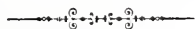
of Chickamunga while serving in the defense of his country; Sarah N., wife of Moses A. Spake, of Bluffton, Indiana, and one that died in infancy. The mother is a prominent member of the Baptist church at Bluffton, as was also the father. James R. Bennett left his father's farm April 1, 1857, and engaged as a clerk in a general store at Warren, Huntington County, Indiana, some four years, and on April 1, 1861, was married to Judith A. Brower, of Preble County, Ohio, a daughter of Christopher and Mary C. (Bloomfield) Brower. After his marriage he removed back to his father's farm and had charge of that until 1871. From 1861 to 1870 he served as constable about three years, and trustee of his township three and a half years, and in 1870 he was elected recorder of Wells County, and re-elected in 1874 and served until November 1, 1879. From 1879 till 1883 he was engaged in looking after his farm, at which time he engaged in the grocery business at Bluffton, where he has met with gratifying success. Mr. Bennett is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined King Lodge, No. 246, at Warren, Indiana, in 1859, and is now a member of both lodge and chapter at Bluffton, and has served his lodge twice as master. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are the parents of two sons—Howard A. and Dora C., the former aged twenty-four years, and the latter aged twenty-two years. Howard A. is bookkeeper for W. B. Nimmons, of Bluffton, Indiana, and Dora C. is a traveling salesman for Moore Bros., wholesale grocers, of Lima, Ohio.

ANDREW R. VAN EMONS, of Harrison Township, was born on the farm where he now resides, on section 9, January 16, 1848, the youngest child of



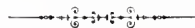
John R. Bennett

James Van Emons. He received a common-school education, and remained on the farm with his parents until their death, then succeeded them in the homestead. June 5, 1874, he was married to Miss E. Marilla, a daughter of Bowen Hale, and they have six children—Mildred, Bowen, Charles, Harriet, Clara and Homer. Mr. Van Emons has a fine farm of 160 acres, situated one and a half miles south of Bluffton. He erected a nice brick residence in 1882. In politics he is a Republican.



ISAAC FISHBAUGH, an active and public-spirited citizen of Rock Creek Township, where he is engaged in farming and stock-raising, is a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, the date of his birth being February 1, 1835, a son of Mordecai and Isabel (McDonald) Fishbaugh. The father was a native of Maryland and of German descent, removing from his native State to Ohio in the year 1812. The mother was a daughter of Alexander McDonald, who left his native country, Ireland, for America, and settled in Pennsylvania, where she was born. Isaac Fishbaugh, the subject of this sketch, was reared to agricultural pursuits, which he has made the principal avocation of his life, and in his youth received a common-school education by attending the schools of his neighborhood. He lived with his parents until his marriage, March 24, 1860, to Miss Lucinda E. Decker, a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Decker. Mrs. Fishbaugh was born in Jay County, Indiana, but when an infant was taken to Ohio, in which State she was reared. Mr. and Mrs. Fishbaugh are the parents of five children—Leonidas, Rufus H., Charles S., Francis B. and Madella. Mr. Fishbaugh continued to reside on the old

homestead of his father until he removed to Wells County, Indiana, in the spring of 1871, when he settled on his present farm on section 20, Rock Creek Township. He then purchased 200 acres of land which was partially improved, and by hard work and persevering energy he has added to his original purchase until he now has 450 acres of choice land which he has improved and brought under fine cultivation. He has been very successful in his chosen avocation, and from a small beginning he has become one of the well-to-do citizens of his township, and has surrounded his wife and family with all the necessary comforts of life. In politics Mr. Fishbaugh is a Democrat. In 1876 he was elected township trustee, serving as such four years. He has served as county commissioner three years, having been elected to that office in the fall of 1883. He has also held other local offices, in all of which he has given satisfaction. He and his family are active and consistent members of the German Reformed church.



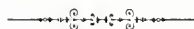
BENJAMIN F. TAYLOR was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, October 2, 1812, son of Ebenezer and Margaret (Foster) Taylor, of Irish ancestry. The father was born in New Jersey, and was a son of Thomas and Ruth (Spragne) Taylor; the latter was probably born in New Jersey. The family came to Ohio about 1785, settling in what is now Jefferson County, where the parents both remained until their death. Their children were—Ebenezer, John, Henry, Cornelius, Rannel, Hiram, William, Ann, Ruth and Jane. Of these children, Ebenezer, the oldest, was the father of our subject. All the brothers and sisters lived, married and died in Ohio, except Cornelius,

who is now a resident of Bartholomew County, Indiana. The children of Ebenezer and his wife were—Benjamin, our subject, Hannah, Ann, Thomas, Ebenezer, Henry, Andrew, James, Ruth, Richard, Zebra and Margaret J. The father of Mrs. Taylor, Benjamin Foster, was a resident of West Virginia, near Wellsburg, when his daughter married Mr. Taylor. He was of German descent, and his wife, Hannah Peirce, was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. They had several children—Andrew, Aaron, Samuel, Benjamin, Margaret, Hannah and Elizabeth. This family all came to Ohio except Samuel. About 1816 the parents of our subject moved to Coshocton County, Ohio, settling on a quarter section of land given by Benjamin Foster to his daughter, Mrs. Taylor. They settled in the dense woods, and were among the early pioneers of that country. Mr. Taylor frequently, when a boy, drove the deer and wild turkey out of his father's dooryard. Those were the good old times when neighbors were neighborly, and when men would go eight and ten miles through the pathless woods to assist in a cabin-raising or a log-rolling. The principal music was the ring of the sturdy pioneer's ax. Children were rocked to sleep in sugar troughs, and snugly tucked between soft woolen blankets, could almost see the twinkling stars as they peered through the crevices of the logs that formed the walls of their cabin home. Their ears were filled with the mournful cries of the catamounts that often came near the cabins at night. As the settlements became more numerous, the game became scarce, and by the time our subject was grown to maturity scarcely anything was left but deer. Benjamin was not a hunter, but was "death" to the squirrels, which were so plentiful it was with difficulty the corn was protected until it was sprouted. In fact, the main

business of the children was to watch the fields in the spring time to keep the squirrels from digging up the newly planted corn. When Benjamin was eighteen years of age he was apprenticed to learn the carpenter's and cabinet-maker's trade. By this was meant to hew logs and make the material ready, taking it from the stump. He was quite a contractor and builder, and for several years worked at the trade in Ohio. October 13, 1836, he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Campbell, daughter of James and Hannah (Ogan) Campbell, who were then living in Coshocton County. James Campbell was born near Dublin, Ireland, and when sixteen years of age emigrated alone to America. He was first married to Mary Rodgers, and they had four children—William, Evan, Sally and Elizabeth. He was one of the heroes of the war of 1812, serving under the command of General Anthony Wayne. He helped to build Fort Deposit and Fort Recovery, and was Sergeant of his company. He had a fine education and was an excellent penman, a teacher, and a weaver of linen in Ireland. His parents were William and Nancy Campbell. After his return from the war of 1812 his wife died, and he afterward married Hannah Ogan, daughter of Peter and Phamia (Biven) Ogan. Her mother was a Bonser, and the family were natives of New Jersey, and were Quakers. They lived in that country during the war of the Revolution, but would not carry arms. Three children were born to James Campbell and his second wife—Phamia, Peter and Nancy, the latter being the wife of our subject. She was born in Belmont County, Ohio, September 12, 1815, and was past twenty-one years of age when married. Their children numbered thirteen—Hannah J., wife of John McCorkle; Ebenezer, who was a brave soldier during the late

war, and lost his health and his life during his term of service, being a member of Company A, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry; Henry C., also deceased; William H., who enlisted in August, 1862, in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, passed through the entire war, is now the husband of Mary Donnelly and resides in Pike County, Ohio; Mary A. became the wife of Freeman Taylor, a carriage manufacturer in Trumbull County, Ohio; Cornelius married Mary Ashburn, and is a resident of Jefferson Township; Elizabeth is the wife of David Huss, who resides on Mr. Taylor's farm. In 1853 the family settled in Jefferson Township, this county, where Mr. Taylor had entered a quarter-section of land on the Indian Reserve. His patent bears the signature of President Zachary Taylor, and the ownership has never been changed. Six years after coming here he was elected justice of the peace of the township, and was re-elected when his term expired. He positively declined to hold the position longer, though strongly urged to do so. Politically he has been a Republican and was one of the founders of that party in the county, but he is now a strong Prohibitionist. The old log cabin that first sheltered the family in this county has long since been replaced by a modern one, and the land has been placed in a good state of cultivation. Their children have married well, and most of them live near. They have held seventeen grandchildren in their arms, and have passed their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They are perhaps the oldest married couple in the county, and still do their own work. Mr. Taylor was made a Master Mason at West Bedford, Ohio, in 1846, and took the exalted degree of Royal Arch Mason at Zanesville, Ohio. He was created a Knight Templar in that city. He is one of the members of the Coshocton

chapter, and after coming to Indiana was instrumental in forming Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M., of which he was a charter member and the first J. W. He was also a charter member of Bluffton Chapter, No. 95, R. A. M., and a member of Fort Wayne Commandery, No. 4, K. T.



HENRY MOSSBURG, of Liberty Township, was born in Henry County, Indiana, September 16, 1821, the third son and sixth child of Rev. Henry and Jane (Tharlickill) Mossburg. The father was born in 1797, and was reared in Maryland. When he was a young man he went to Virginia in pursuit of work, and later went to Ohio with the Tharlickill family, who located in Chillicothe, Ross County. Mrs. Mossburg was a native of Virginia and of French ancestry. They removed to Delaware County, Indiana, in 1827, where the father purchased twenty acres of land, which he afterward sold and entered eighty acres from the Government. This land he partially improved, then sold it and entered eighty acres more, upon which he resided until 1837, when he came to Wells County. There were but two families in Liberty Township when he settled there. November 2, 1838, he died, and was the first white man buried in that township. He lost his health while serving in the war of 1812. When he felt that the end was near, he selected the spot he wished for his last resting place. He had officiated as minister in the Christian church for many years. His wife survived him until 1872, and died at an advanced age. Of their nine children four are still living—Daniel, Henry, James T. and Esther L. Our subject was seventeen years of age when his father died. He remained with his mother until his marriage, after

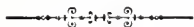
which time his mother lived with him. She is buried in the Mossburg cemetery. Henry was married August 2, 1845, to Miss Rebecca Scotton, daughter of John and Dinah Scotton, who came from England to this country when Mrs. Mossburg was a child. To this union three children were born, only one surviving—Isaac. Mrs. Mossburg died April 19, 1851, at the age of twenty-nine years. May 2, 1852, Mr. Mossburg was married to Mary E. Wixlie, whose first husband was Leander Wiley. She was a daughter of James and Harriet Ware, who came from Kentucky to Wells County in 1847. Mr. Mossburg has resided upon one farm for a period of fifty years. He has added to his estate from time to time until he had 400 acres of land, 298 acres having been entered from the Government. He has divided with his children and now has 153 acres of improved land in a good state of cultivation. By his last marriage ten children were born, nine of whom are living—Harriet A., Lafayette, Ellen M., William, Jane, Armintha, Eddie, Lizzie and Walter. Milton died at the age of three years. The parents are members of the Christian church, and in politics Mr. Mossburg is a Republican.

JAMES K. HEDGES, farmer and manufacturer of tile, Harrison Township, was born in that township, October 25, 1849, a son of Robert Hedges. His early life was spent on the farm and in attending the common schools. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority. He was married February 22, 1872, to Miss Eunice A. Neff, daughter of Levi and Rebecca (Good-speed) Neff. Her father was a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and a son of John Neff. He was married in Athens County in

1849, removed to this county and settled in Harrison Township, where he passed the remainder of his days. They were the parents of six children—William W. (deceased), Eunice A., Charles E. (deceased), John N., Mary E. and Thankful C. (deceased). The mother died May 13, 1875, and the father October 29, 1884. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he was a Republican. After his marriage, our subject remained upon his father's farm for about two years, then rented until he purchased his present farm on section 29, in 1880, consisting of thirty-six acres of improved land. In 1884 he engaged in the manufacture of tile, which proved a successful enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. Hedges are the parents of seven children—Charles F., Alice M., Robert L., Nathan C., James E., Arthur C. and Harry. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and politically he affiliates with the Democratic party.

NATHAN LANCASTER, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Grant County, Indiana, October 25, 1836, son of John and Ruth (Shields) Lancaster. His father was born near Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio, and of English-Scotch ancestry, the Lancaster family being direct descendants of the Lancasters of England. The mother was born in Virginia, of Irish ancestry. Nathan was only a year old when his parents removed to Chester Township, and here they have resided ever since. At that time not a blow had ever been struck on the place, and the father made his own clearing and built his own log cabin. Deer were plenty, and Nathan well remembers when six or seven deer came into the fields in a drove. He was married in this county, December 18,

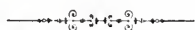
1862, to Miss Mary Starr, born in Chester Township, and a daughter of Benjamin and Matilda (Popijoy) Starr, natives of Ohio, the father of Hocking County and the mother of Fayette County. Her grandfather settled on Six-mile Creek, Wells County, in an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster have had seven children, of whom two, Matilda Ellen and an infant unnamed, are deceased. Those living are—Louis Grant, Harvey B., Louisa Jane, John Edward and Orley Lionel. Mr. Lancaster's brother John was a soldier in the late civil war, being a member of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and died from disease contracted while in the service. He was in the last stage of his disease when brought home. Politically Mr. Lancaster affiliates with the Republican party, and religiously he is a member of the Christian church. He owns 240 acres of land, 100 acres being cleared.



WILLIAM H. MILLER, an enterprising and public-spirited citizen of Wells County, and justice of the peace of Chester Township, is a native of Indiana, born in Henry County, April 7, 1852, a son of John and Rachel (Rodgers) Miller. John Miller was a native of Boone County, Kentucky, and when a boy three years old was brought by his parents to Henry County, Indiana. May 29, 1852, he came to Wells County and purchased 160 acres of wild land on section 14, on which he located. Game was very plentiful, especially deer, wild turkeys and squirrels, when he first settled in the county, but he did not follow hunting except for fur animals, of which he hunted and trapped a considerable number. He made his home in Wells County until 1880, when he removed to Reno County, Kansas,

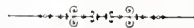
remaining there until his death in June, 1885. His widow still survives, and is making her home on the farm near William H. in Chester Township. William H. Miller was but seven weeks old when he was brought by his parents to Wells County, and here he has since lived with the exception of about three years, from 1880 until 1883, spent in Wexford County, Michigan. He was reared to the avocation of a farmer, his youth being spent in assisting on his father's farm and in attending the schools of Chester Township. November 1, 1875, he was married to Miss Amanda M. Miller, a native of Wells County, Indiana, a daughter of Henry G. and Francisina (Morris) Miller, natives of Germany and Ohio respectively. Five of the six children born to this union are living—William H., George E., Laura Ellen, Ida Elsie and Lewis Elmer. Helen Viola is deceased. Since 1878 Mr. Miller, in connection with his farming pursuits, has followed blacksmithing and carpentering. His farm consists of his interests as an heir in 145 acres of land which is mostly all improved. When the family first settled in the county settlers were few, and many were the hardships and privations endured by these pioneers. The road which runs past the home farm was then nothing but a trail through the woods, and the improvement of Chester Township had hardly commenced. When they could not go to mill, they would have to grate corn on an iron grater late into the night to get enough corn meal for the next day, or they would sometimes pound the corn in a mortar. Wheat was a great rarity in those days. For two or three years after coming to the county the father, John Miller, made a living by hunting minks and selling their skins. When John Miller first settled in this county he had a hard time to make a living. The foxes would catch and carry off the pigs, and opossum would visit the hen

roost. The howling of the wolves made the night hideous; so bold did they become that they would come near the house and fight the dog, and often when Mr. Miller would go out hunting for raccoon, the howling of the wolves would drive the dog back and he would be obliged to return. One hard winter when feed was scarce, he had to take his ax and cut down the elm trees for the cattle to browse upon to keep them from perishing. Their meat consisted principally of turkey and squirrel, and when the old gun got out of fix they had to do without even that. In politics Mr. Miller affiliates with the Democratic party, but in local elections votes independent of party ties. In the spring of 1884 he was elected justice of the peace, which office he has since filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He is a member of the old school Baptist church, and Mrs. Miller is a member of the Christian church.



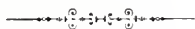
SIGMUND OPPENHEIM, a retired merchant of Bluffton, Indiana, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1821. He was reared in his native country, and in his youth was educated in the mercantile business. In 1848 he came to the United States, landing in New York City July 1, where he remained about two months. He then went to Newark, Ohio, where for a few months he was employed as a mercantile clerk. From there he went to Mount Vernon, Ohio, where he was employed in the same capacity until the spring of 1849, when he went to Somerset, Ohio, remaining there until the following December, when, influenced by the gold excitement, he went to California and worked in the Yuba Diggins until October, 1850, when failing to realize his anticipations he went to San Francisco, and engaged in the

more promising business of keeping a restaurant. In September, 1852, he returned to Ohio, and clerked at Zanesville, Mount Vernon and Mansfield until September, 1853, when he came to Indiana and located at Bluffton. He embarked in the mercantile business, which he continued until 1877, and from 1881 until 1885 engaged in the manufacture of cigars. Since 1885 he has lived retired from active business life. In politics Mr. Oppenheim is a Democrat. He has no aspirations for official honors, the only offices he ever held being those of school trustee and councilman, holding the former position fourteen years and the latter one term, refusing to accept a second nomination. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1849, and is a member of both lodge and chapter at Bluffton. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows order, lodge, and encampment, and has been a representative to the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment of the State. Mr. Oppenheim was married in 1854 to Mary Jane Niblick, daughter of James Niblick, of Adams County, Indiana. They have three children—Albert, agent for the American Express Company and manager of the Western Union Telegraph office at Bluffton; William S., an attorney, of Fort Wayne, and Addie.



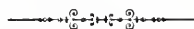
NATHAN ROBERTS, farmer, Liberty Township, was born in Rock Creek Township, this county, October 17, 1851, son of Robert and Abigail (Redding) Roberts. He was reared on a farm, obtaining his education in the common schools. March 9, 1876, he was married to Miss Harriet Ann, daughter of Henry Mossburg, who was born February 22, 1853. He settled upon his present farm on section 3, Lib-

erty Township, it being then heavily timbered. He now has a fine farm of 200 acres, 150 acres being in a high state of cultivation, all of which he has earned by his own industry. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have two children—Rosa May, born August 17, 1877, and Nettie Bell, born December 11, 1880. Mr. Roberts is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 92, K. of P., and in politics is a Democrat. Mrs. Roberts is a member of the Christian church.



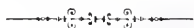
JOHN P. CONNETT, farmer, Harrison Township, was born in Athens County, June 7, 1821, the fifth son and seventh of ten children of John and Rebecca (Pickett) Connett, the former a native of New Jersey and of Scotch ancestry, the latter a native of Maryland and of English ancestry. He remained with his parents on the farm until he reached his majority, and December 30, 1841, he was married to Miss Jane McCartney, daughter of John and Sarah (Jones) McCartney, of West Virginia, and of Irish and Welsh ancestry. After his marriage he settled upon a farm in his native county and lived there until the fall of 1847, when he came to this county, bringing his wife and two small children. They remained in Bluffton during the winter, and the following spring Mr. Connett purchased forty acres of heavily timbered land on section 16, Harrison Township, which he began clearing and improving. He cleared ten acres, built a dwelling-house, lived there two years, then sold out and purchased his present farm on section 21, again settling in the wilderness. His farm consisted of eighty acres, which he has cleared and improved, and now has it in a good state of cultivation. They passed through all the vicissitudes of pioneer life.

They were the parents of ten children, five of whom are living—Emily, wife of William Brice; Rhoda, wife of William Singer; Rebecca, deceased; Sarah married Joseph Stead, and is now deceased; Margaret F., deceased; John N.; James M., deceased; Julia A.; Laura B., and Lydia M., deceased. Mr. Connett came to this county with limited means. He chopped wood for 25 cents a cord, and worked for John Studabaker for seven years. He now has a good property, which he has accumulated by hard work and good management. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a Republican.



MATTHEW ALLEN, deceased, was the youngest child of Ebenezer and Abigail (Batty) Allen, and was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, October, 26, 1820. He came to Jefferson Township in 1848, and entered a quarter section of land on the Indian Reserve, and also entered a quarter section for his brother Hezekiah. The latter built a cabin for his family prior to their removal to this county. Matthew was a single man when he came, and three years later married Amelia Goff. They had two children, both dying in infancy. Mrs. Allen died January 27, 1862, and January 28, 1869, Matthew married Miss Mary J. Hoopengardner, daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Hage) Hoopengardner, natives of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. Peter, the great-grandfather of Elizabeth Hage, was born in Germany, and was the first of that name to immigrate to America. He settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where the mother of Mrs. Allen was born. After the death of his wife Mr. Allen enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Indiana

Infantry. Returning home after his discharge, he purchased the farm upon which his wife now resides, and erected a handsome brick residence. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Allen were—Almira E., Lafayette L. and Rhoda M. Matthew was a quiet, unassuming man, and, with the exception of supervisor of roads, would not be a candidate for official positions. After being well settled in life and having a beautiful home, with the joys that come to those surrounded by a happy family and loving wife, he was seized with an illness that terminated his existence December 31, 1879. His family are in independent circumstances, and are very highly esteemed among their neighbors and friends.



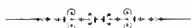
YRUS WILSON, farmer, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, a son of Gibson and Nancy A. (Harris) Wilson. The father was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and was a son of James and Alice Wilson. He married his wife in Ohio, and for several years they resided upon his father's farm. In 1851 Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Wilson, with their children, Elizabeth, Cyrus, James and Nancy, made a location in Jefferson Township. The father purchased 240 acres on section 16, town 28, range 12, upon which he erected the first cabin the same year. The whole tract was covered with timber and Cyrus, our subject, although seven years of age, helped to burn the brush, and saw the logs placed in position that were to shelter the family in the new country. The nearest neighbors, William Craig, Sr., William Shap-
hel, Moses Louthen and William Chapinan, were residents of Ossian, and the latter kept a small stock of general merchandise. Gibson Wilson was a quiet, inoffensive man who took the greatest comfort in his home and with his

family. Both himself and wife were of Irish ancestry, the grandparents of both having been born in Ireland. He was one of the first road supervisors in the township, and was the overseer when the first roads leading from Ossian were cleared of underbrush. He and his wife were members of the first Presbyterian church erected in the township, and the children were reared strictly in that faith. John L., Margaret and Emma were born in this county. The death of the father occurred in 1862. His wife still survives, and is now in her sixty-eighth year. All the children but one are living, and all are married. Elizabeth became the wife of Robert Rodgers, a farmer residing on a part of the original Wilson homestead; James married Lydia Fleining, and resides in Harrison Township; Nancy A. is the wife of Isaac Allen, a son of one of the oldest residents of the county; Margaret A. married Lorenzo Anthony, a resident of Union Township; John is the husband of Mary Honsel, and resides on the homestead farm. The mother lives with them and has had the pleasure of holding twenty-one grandchildren in her arms, all of whom were born in this county. She has one great-grandchild, Clarence Smith, son of William and Mary J. (Rodgers) Smith, youngest daughter of Elizabeth and Robert Rodgers. In August, 1862, our subject enlisted in Company K, Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, as a private. He was soon after made Corporal, serving three years in that capacity. He was Color-Guard at the famous battles of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Resaca, Atlanta, and in the march to the sea he was either Color-Guard or Standard Bearer. In one of the engagements a bullet passed through his clothes without touching his body. He carried the colors of his regiment when the great military review was held at Washington, the grandest military spectacle ever seen on the American con-



John Ogden

ment. He laid his colors down only when peace was declared and the preservation of the Union was acknowledged by all to be due to the noble sons of the States who had fought valiantly for three long years. After his return from the army he went to Beaver County, Pennsylvania, where he remained ten years engaged in farming. In that State he was married in 1875, to Miss Mary Frazier, of Lawrence County, and the same year the young couple returned to Indiana, where Mr. Wilson purchased his present farm. He erected his elegant house, and they are now comfortably settled within sight of Ossian. They have five children—Raymond F., John H., Nettie B., Otto O. and Chester C. Mr. Wilson built his fine barn, 36 x 56 feet, in 1887.



JOHN OGDEN was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1807, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Crouch) Ogden. His grandparents, Malachi and Temperance Ogden, were natives of New Jersey. Both were of English descent. The subject of our sketch was reared on a farm and received his education in the subscription schools, in the primitive log school-houses of the early day, remaining on the farm with his parents until he attained his majority. He was married May 27, 1828, to Miss Martha Swearingen, who was a native of West Virginia, and a daughter of George and Ruth Wilcoxson, natives of Maryland, and of Danish extraction. After marriage, John Ogden followed farming in West Virginia, and also in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, until April, 1837, when he came to Wells County, Indiana. Arriving here, he entered 160 acres of Government land on sections 30 and 31, Jefferson Township, where he remained until the

following June, when he returned to his former home in West Virginia. October 10, 1839, Mr. John Ogden, with his wife and five children emigrated to their frontier home in Indiana, completing the journey in fourteen days with horse teams. With buoyant heart and willing hands he commenced the laborious task of clearing a spot of ground, upon which he erected a log cabin 18x20 feet, roofing it with clapboards and flooring it with pine-boards, into which he moved his family. He further continued the task of clearing an additional portion of ground, preparatory to putting in a spring crop, and succeeded in getting in three acres of corn, which constituted their first year's crop. When he arrived in Indiana his capital stock consisted of three horses, a cow and heifer, and \$40 in money. Three weeks after his arrival he lost his best horse, a drawback of no small proportions to a new beginner in a new section of country. Passing through all the hardships and privations subject to frontier life, he followed farming in Jefferson Township, living to see the once unbroken forest fall before the woodsman's ax, and as the result of the constant application of the horny hand of toil, in time he saw rich fields of golden grain greeting the eye on every hand, and furnishing plenty and to spare for the ever increasing population and their accompanying wants; the narrow circuitous trail through the dense woods gave way to the broad thoroughfare; regions once traversed by bands of murderous Indians, or made the safe retreat of vicious, howling wolves, gave place to useful ends and happy scenes, as the school-house, with its laughing girls and boys; all this accomplished in response to that indomitable energy from time immemorial characteristic of the white race. The pioneer in his early experience was not much troubled by being hurried away from his home to give his support and presence at

some district or State convention, and thus weary and rack his brain, for political purposes, but he was content with his friends, home and quietude. The memory, by the pioneer, of the hardships and privations, is sweetened by the recalling of incidents pertaining to the log-rolling, the fox, deer or wolf hunt; the ingathering of neighbors from far and near to enjoy both the luxuriant product and happy scenes of the sugar camp, or the social converse around the old fire-place, with its great back-log, its heap of glowing coals and dazzling light.

Oh hallowed spot!

Oh precious token!

The hearstone around which our loved ones have gathered;

The chair in which they sat;

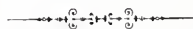
The cup their lips have kissed;

The flute their hands have swept;

What jewels can replace their value?

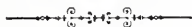
Unto John Ogden and wife were born ten children, eight of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, three of whom still survive, viz. — Sarah A., the wife of David Kimmel; Fannie, the wife of William Goshorn, and George S., a resident of Bluffton, Indiana. The deceased are—Robert P., Samuel J., John M., Martha A., wife of ex-County Auditor G. E. Gardiner, Harriet R., wife of Harmon Nettlefield, and Elizabeth; and one died in infancy. Mr. Ogden was bereft of his wife by death, on November 15, 1864. The subject of our sketch has been elected by the people to many offices of trust and responsibility, viz.: Supervisor, school trustee and civil trustee, serving in township offices eleven years. He was elected as county assessor, being the last one to serve under the old law to assess the whole county, which work took him ninety-five and one half days. He served the county as commissioner for six years. In 1870 he was elected to the office of county treasurer and re-elected in 1872. He also

served as a member of the City Council of Bluffton. Mr. Ogden is an active and consistent member of the United Presbyterian church, and is the only original member of that church at Murray, Indiana, now living in the county. He was elected as a member of the session of this church at its organization, which office he continues to hold. He was financial agent of the Wabash Presbytery, now Northern Indiana. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party, casting his first presidential vote for General Jackson. He is now in his eightieth year, a remarkably well preserved old gentleman, enjoying the full vigor of mind and body. He resides in Bluffton with his son-in-law. For integrity, honesty and fair dealing, Mr. Ogden has no superior in his county. His kind treatment and courteous manner with the people while treasurer of the county, marks that period as one of the most pleasant in the history of that office. He is an honorable citizen and Christian gentleman, and a model for the rising generation.



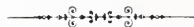
WILLIAM N. BUCKNER, farmer and stock-raiser, Liberty Township, was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, September 15, 1827, son of Thomas and Matilda (Hanson) Buckner, also natives of Kentucky. Thomas Buckner was a son of Philip and Tabitha Buckner, the former a native of Virginia and of German ancestry, the latter a native of Maryland and of German-Irish ancestry; her father was John Hanson, a native of Maryland. Our subject passed his early life on the farm and attended the early subscription schools in the primitive log cabin. He was married January 16, 1851, to Miss Amelia M. Yelton, daughter of Charles and Amelia (Gosney) Yelton, the

former a native of Virginia, and the latter of German descent. After his marriage Mr. Buckner followed farming until 1855, when he came to this county and purchased forty acres of heavily timbered land on section 16, Liberty Township. He sold this land and purchased eighty acres on section 18, this being also heavy-timbered. He cleared and improved his last purchase, and has added to it from time to time until he now has 320 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Buckner have had nine children—John T., Charles N., Millie J., wife of Joseph Thurlkill, Missouri E., Martha Ann, wife of Byron H. Prible, George W., Miami M., Francis Marion and Benjamin F. Mr. Buckner is a self-made man. By his own industry and good management he has acquired a good property, and his family is surrounded with all the comforts of life. Himself and wife and four children are members of the Disciple church. Politically Mr. Buckner affiliates with the Democratic party.



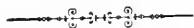
HENRY THOMA, manufacturer of and dealer in furniture at Bluffton, was born in Ebersdorf, Germany, the date of his birth being January 28, 1832. His parents being farmers, he was reared to the same avocation, remaining on the home farm until reaching the age of seventeen years. He then left his native country for the United States, landing at New York June 7, 1849. He first settled at Findlay, Ohio, where he began to learn the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he served an apprenticeship of three years. During 1852 he attended the Presbyterian Academy at Findlay, defraying his expenses by the money which he earned by working at his trade during evenings. In the spring of 1853 he was em-

ployed as clerk in a grain elevator. In October, 1853, he came to Bluffton, where in January, 1854, he formed a partnership with Jacob Tribolet, with whom he was associated in the furniture business under the firm name of Tribolet & Co. until 1861, when the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent. He then clerked for a short time in the hardware store of Henry Cook, when he engaged in his present business, which he has since carried on with success. In 1869 Mr. Thoma was married at Bluffton to Miss Matilda Deaver, a daughter of James Deaver, a former resident of Wells County. They have one son, Herman, who was born at Bluffton, June 16, 1872, and is now attending the public school at Bluffton. In politics Mr. Thoma is a Democrat. He has served in all, at different times, five years as city clerk of Bluffton, was councilman three years and for one year served as school trustee, and in 1886 was elected coroner of Wells County. Mr. and Mrs. Thoma and their son are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bluffton. Mr. Thoma is a Master and Royal Arch Mason, and is a member of the lodge and chapter at Bluffton. His parents, Christian and Christina (Sherf) Thoma, died in their native village, Ebersdorf, Germany, the father in 1872 at the age of seventy years, and the mother in 1879, at the age of sixty-nine years. Both were members of the Lutheran church.



JOHN J. GRANT, farmer, section 9, Rock Creek Township, is a native of Hampshire County, West Virginia, the date of his birth being August 13, 1816. His parents, John and Mary (Gray) Grant, were born in the State of Virginia, the father being a son of William Grant, who was a

native of Scotland, and the mother being of Irish ancestry. John J., our subject, was reared in his native county until attaining the age of fifteen years, when he went to Fairfield County, Ohio, and worked on a farm in that county about six years. In 1837 he came to Wells County, Indiana, where he worked for a time as a farm laborer. He was married May 30, 1839, to Miss Matilda Sparks, who was born in Wilkes County, North Carolina, coming with her father, George Sparks, to Wells County in the fall of 1837. Of the seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Grant five are yet living—Sarah Ann, Mary J., Elizabeth, George W. and El-mira. Delilah and Jacob are deceased. Mr. Grant lived on rented land a few years after his marriage, when he bought forty-three acres of unimproved land which he cleared and put under cultivation, and after living on this farm twenty-two years he sold it and purchased his present farm, to which he removed March 12, 1872, where he has seventy acres of improved land, located on sections 8 and 9, which he has gained by persevering industry and energy. In politics Mr. Grant is a Democrat. He has served as constable and assistant constable in all four years, and also was elected as assessor for four years, and served the full term. Both he and his wife are members of the German Reformed church.



MRS. RHODA HOUSEL, of Ossian, was born in the State of New York in 1814, the thirteenth child of Ebenezer and Abigail Allen. She was four years of age when her parents removed to Trumbull County, Ohio. She was married December 25, 1834, to Absalom Housel, a native of Northumberland County, Pennsylv-

vania, of German ancestry. His parents, Peter and Sarah (Myers) Housel, could not speak the English language when they were married. The father was born in 1780. They reared a family of seven children, six sons and one daughter; all are living except the husband of our subject. She came to this county with her husband in October, 1848, and settled in Union Township, upon land now owned by the Fosselman brothers. They had five children previous to their removal—Freeman, Harriet, Peter, George W. and Hiram. After their arrival here Sarah J. and Mary E. were born. At that time there were neither roads nor improvements, and but few families living in the neighborhood. When a visit was made they followed the blazed trees instead of a public highway, and the log cabins were just as hospitable as are the modern mansions of to-day. A huge fire-place in which the fire crackled and glowed furnished both light and heat in many instances, and the johnnycake and corn pone were baked in Dutch ovens upon the glowing embers. The hardships of the pioneers were lessened by the lack of conventionality: a neighbor was a neighbor in deed as well as word. Men would go miles through the woods to assist in raising a log cabin, or to aid a new-comer in rolling his logs, that a crop might be planted. Four of the children of our subject were soldiers in the late civil war. Jered F. enlisted in the Forty-fourth Indiana Infantry in 1861; Peter C. and George W. enlisted in the Thirty-fourth, and Hiram in the Forty-seventh. At the battle of Pittsburg Landing Jered F. was shot through the thigh by a rebel bullet, and for months was in the hospital at Evansville, Indiana. His mother was by his side for several months, and with loving hands nursed him back to health. After his return from the army he was married to Drusilla Reeves,

of De Kalb County, Indiana, where they still reside. They have one son—Ellsworth E. Peter and Hiram were both wounded at the battle of Champion Hills. Hiram received a bullet in the arm, and Peter had a bullet graze his cheek. After their return Hiram married Delilah Slippey, and they have three daughters and one son. They are residents of De Kalb County. George W. died from disease at Camp Carleton, near New Orleans. Peter is a bachelor and resides with his mother at Ossian. Harriet M. married Thomas F. Reeves, whose death occurred in 1866. She had one daughter, Luella, wife of James Monroe, of St. John's, De Kalb County, this State. Sarah J. became the wife of James Reed, of this county, who is section boss of the Muncie & Fort Wayne Railroad. They have seven children, and two deceased. Mary E. married John Wilson, son of one of the early settlers, and resides at Ossian. They are the parents of four children. Seventeen grandchildren are living, and some of them are grown. Mr. Housel died in July, 1883. Peter received a sunstroke after the surrender of Vicksburg, while on the march to Jackson, Mississippi. This so undermined his health that he has never been able to work, and he receives a pension of \$50 a month.

JOEL KEMP, farmer, Harrison Township, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, February 23, 1829, son of Solomon and Elizabeth (Baker) Kemp, the former a native of Maryland, and the latter of Virginia and of German ancestry. When he was three years old his mother died, and in the fall of 1839 Solomon Kemp came to this county with six children and purchased 212 acres of land in Harrison Township, where he began clearing and improving a future home. He

followed farming the remainder of his days. There were eight children, of whom four are living. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and died in 1850, aged fifty-eight years. Our subject was ten years of age when he came to Wells County. His youth was spent in assisting his father on the farm, and he remained with him until his death. December 13, 1855, he was married to Miss Mahala Deam, daughter of John A. Deam, who came here from Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1839. To this union one child has been born—Alice Olive, wife of George Studabaker. Mr. Kemp resides on the old homestead where he was reared and where he has lived for forty-eight years. He has 162 acres. In politics he is a Democrat.

ROBERT D. FORNSHELL, general merchant, Dillman, and one of the self-made men of Jackson Township, was born in East Waterford, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1818. His parents, Joseph and Margery (Douglass) Fornshell, were also natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. They were reared and married in their native State, and about the year 1823 emigrated to Preble County, Ohio. The mother died in Highland County, Ohio, and the father's death occurred in Jay County, Indiana. They had a family of three children who grew to maturity. The father was a wheelwright by occupation, which he followed until his death. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The mother was a member of the Presbyterian church. Robert D. Fornshell, the subject of this sketch, lived with his grandparents in Pennsylvania until he was fourteen years of age. After their death his father took him to his home in Preble County,

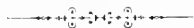
Ohio, where he remained about four years, and then went to live with an uncle in Highland County, Ohio, with whom he lived until reaching his majority, when he began working on the farm as a farm laborer. In 1842, being anxious to improve his mind and fit himself for business, he attended the common schools of his neighborhood, and later spent two terms at the academy in Hillsborough, Ohio. October 5, 1844, he arrived in Van Buren Township, Grant County, Indiana, where he engaged in teaching school. He was married August 18, 1846, to Mary A. Pitcher, who was born in Morgan County, Pennsylvania, October 29, 1829. Eleven children were born to this union, whose names are—Amanda M., William O. (deceased), Arthur N., Franklin P., Mary M., James B., Joshua P., Edward M., Robert D., Ida A. and Lavanee C. Mr. Fornshell taught altogether twenty-three terms of school, mostly in Van Buren Township, following that avocation during the winter months, and in the summer season followed farming. He bought a heavily-timbered farm in Van Buren Township, which he cleared and improved. For two years he was employed as clerk in the store of Robert Gilbert. In 1880 he engaged in the general mercantile business in the village of Van Buren, Grant County, Indiana, and in 1883 bought the store of Henry Templeton at Dillman, Jackson Township, Wells County, where he still remains. Mr. Fornshell is a man of good business ability, and is meeting with success in his present enterprise, doing an annual business of several thousand dollars. While a resident of Van Buren Township, Grant County, Mr. Fornshell held the office of justice of the peace for twenty years. Mr. Fornshell began life in Van Buren entirely without means, having but \$1.37, and from this small beginning he has by persevering

industry and good management become one of the prosperous citizens of Jackson Township, being now the owner of a good business, a comfortable home and forty acres of choice land. Mr. Fornshell in his political views affiliates with the Democratic party, and has held several local offices. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1857, in which year he united with Grant Lodge at Marion, Grant County. He is now a member of King Lodge, No. 246, A. F. & A. M., at Warren, Huntington County, Indiana. He and his wife were formerly members of the Christian church.

JACOB SHOUP, of Zanesville, is one of the early settlers of Union Township, having settled there as early as 1847, while there was a great deal of land in the Indian reserve subject to entry. He was born near Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, son of John and Polly (Ackerman) Shoup. The father was born in that county, and his father, Jacob Shoup, was one of the early settlers of that country, coming from Germany. John Shoup was the father of eleven children—William, Nathaniel, Sophia A., Polly, Jacob and Sarah came to Indiana. The family moved to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and in that State the remaining children died. Our subject was the first to emigrate to Indiana. Previous to his coming he was married to Miss Rachel Kain, and six of their children were born in that State—Daniel, William, Mary, Sophia, and two that died in infancy. Jacob was not a poor man when he came to Wells County. His first purchase of land was half of sections 4 and 5, known as the Shoppine section. No roads were cut through the forests, and the new comers found their way to

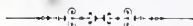
their lands by means of Indian trails. On the sections mentioned not a stick had been felled except by the Indians. Jacob built his first house one mile south of his present residence. This was not built, however, for several years after the family came, as they lived in an Indian cabin, part of which was a store-house in which "Shoppine" was the merchant. He, with ten others, was buried near the site of the old cabin, where they had lived so many years. The lands owned by Mr. Shoup were favorite hunting-grounds, and he was well acquainted with many of the Indians, especially "White Loon," who, during one of his sprees, told Mr. Shoup he fought against General Wayne, for whom he entertained the greatest aversion; and while he talked, tears rolled down his cheeks. Jacob has attended Indian dances near White Loon's cabin; during the day all would get drunk and lie asleep in the woods. Many tears were shed by these Indians when forced to leave the reservation, and some of the squaws carried away soil to be sprinkled on their graves. Jacob's sons aided him in clearing his land. His house and barn were the largest in the township at the time they were built, and 100 men were present at the raising. Settlers came fast, and Jacob spent three weeks in helping to raise cabins in the neighborhood. Joseph and John Shoup were born in the Indian cabin, and Jacob, Jr., in the new house. In 1877 the mother died, and July 6, 1879, Mr. Shoup married Miss Mary Wilson, daughter of John and Phebe (Correll) Wilson, who came from Coshocton County, Ohio, to Wells County in 1854. Mrs. Shoup's mother died when she was three weeks old, and her father afterward married Mary Bechtel. To the first marriage were born four children—Milton, Montraville, Francis M. and Mary. The two eldest sons lost their lives in the service of their

country. Milton was wounded at the battle of Stone River, and died five days later. Montraville died from disease contracted in the army. Francis M. married Annie Thomas, and resides at Uniondale. Daniel Shoup was a member of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, of which he was Quartermaster's clerk and dispatch bearer. He married Angeline Seaman after his return from the army, whose death occurred later. She had three children, of whom Lottie and Clara Etta are living. Mary Shoup married Dan Keplinger; Sophia married Benjamin Clark; Joseph is the husband of Ida Keplinger; John married Margaret Fisher; William married Mary Bell; and Jacob is unmarried. To the second marriage of our subject one son, Edward, has been born, who is now seven years of age. Mr. Shoup has retired from active life and has a competency for his old age.



WILLIAM B. NIMMONS, an active and enterprising business man, and proprietor of the Oil Barrel Heading and Stave Factory at Bluffton, is a native of New York State, born in the vicinity of Seneca Falls in 1836, a son of James and Elizabeth (McKin) Nimmons. They were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, our subject being the eldest son. When he was fourteen years old his home was broken up by the death of his mother, and from that early age he was thrown upon his own resources. He then learned the cooper's trade with his uncles, B. F. and William McKin, at Bellevue, Ohio, and after serving an apprenticeship of three years, began to receive wages. He worked as a journeyman cooper until becoming of age, when he accepted the position of fore-

man in a barrel factory at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, where he was employed for one year, after which he accepted a similar position at Bellevue, Ohio. Mr. Nimmons was married at Bellevue in 1857 to Miss Mary A. Wright, a daughter of the late William Wright. Three children have been born to this union, all dying in infancy. During the latter part of 1861 Mr. Nimmons went to Saginaw, Michigan, where he was employed as superintendent of the salt works of Flagner & York until 1866. He then went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, as barrel inspector, until 1870. In that year he came to Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, and engaged in the manufacture of staves and headings for oil barrels, being a member of the firm of Nimmons & Co. until 1882, since which time he has been sole proprietor. He is also operating a similar factory at Celina, Ohio. Mr. Nimmons is a member of the Presbyterian church at Bluffton.



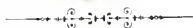
HON. JACOB HENRY CLAY SMITH, State Senator and attorney at law, residing in Bluffton, was born in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, August 9, 1842. He was reared to the avocation of a farmer, remaining on the home farm until nineteen years of age, receiving his early education in the district schools. Before leaving home he taught one term of school, and in the spring of 1861 entered the Bluffton High School, which he attended for three years, and taught school during the winter months. In the spring of 1864 he engaged in the drug business with his brother, T. G. Smith, at Markle, Huntington County, Indiana. Retiring from the firm in the spring of 1865, he returned to Bluffton,

where he engaged in the book and stationery business until 1868, when he engaged in the confectionery business at Bluffton. The following spring he added groceries to his confectionery business, which he followed until 1875. April 25, 1865, he was united in marriage at Bluffton to Miss Arlie L. Wisner, who was born, reared and educated at Bluffton, her parents, Thomas L. and Mary W. (Sharp) Wisner, being pioneers of Wells County. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two children living—Willis S., who graduated from the Bluffton High School in the class of 1886, and is clerking in a drug store at Bluffton, and Merle W., aged three years. They also have an adopted son, a nephew, named Frank S. Smith, whom they have reared from infancy. He is at present attending the high school at Bluffton. Three children are deceased—Lutie T., who died in September, 1867, aged one year, and Jennie and Harry (twins), both dying in infancy. In 1872 Mr. Smith was elected justice of the peace of Harrison Township, and re-elected in 1876, holding that office continuously for eight years. In 1878 he was admitted to the bar at Bluffton, since which time he has been engaged in the practice of law, and has succeeded in building up a good practice. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party. In 1886 he was elected State Senator to represent the district composed of Huntington and Wells counties for a term of four years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the First Baptist Church of Bluffton, of which Mr. Smith is also a deacon. Also a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 1838, K. of H. Mr. Smith is a son of Thomas T. and Catherine (Geary) Smith, natives of Ohio, the father of Irish and Scotch ancestry, and the mother of German. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are yet living—one a resident of St. Louis, one living in California,



J. H. C. Smith

three in Texas and the rest in Indiana. The parents came to Indiana in 1832, and settled at Fort Wayne, Allen County, removing to Wells County in 1836, when they located on Government land in Rock Creek Township. Here the father improved a farm on which he resided until 1864. He then sold his farm and purchased another in the vicinity of Bluffton, on which he and family resided ten years, and then moved into the city of Bluffton, where he died April 9, 1881, aged nearly eighty-one years. In politics he was formerly a Whig, but in later life affiliated with the Democratic party. He served as county commissioner, justice of the peace and township trustee several years. In his religious faith he was a Universalist. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born at Lancaster, Ohio, April 4, 1812, and died at Bluffton, Indiana, December 7, 1882, aged nearly seventy-one years. In early life she joined the Presbyterian church and remained a member of the same until her death.



WILLIAM H. RUPRIGHT, farmer, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, January 19, 1849, son of John and Elizabeth (Dougherty) Rupright. The father and grandfather Rupright were born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; the great-grandfather came from Germany. Only two sons were born in each generation. John Rupright was four years of age when his father left Pennsylvania and settled in Trumbull County. They were among the first pioneers of the county, and the first location was made near Lordstown. George Rupright was a carpenter by trade and one of the first mechanics in the neighborhood. John learned the trade of his father. George Rupright had two sons—John and William; the lat-

ter lives on the homestead. John Rupright was married in Trumbull County, and William H. was born in Lordstown before the family came West. In the spring of 1852 his parents located in Preble Township, Adams County, purchasing eighty acres of land upon which no improvements had been made. He built a log cabin, 18 x 20 feet, and began the work of clearing up a farm and making a home for his wife and children. He also worked at his trade to some extent, and erected the first frame house built in the eastern part of Jefferson Township, for Jacob Summers. Mr. and Mrs. Rupright have had seven children, two sons and five daughters—Mary A. is the wife of Alexander White, of Jefferson Township; Elizabeth became the wife of Samuel M. Kreigh, of the same township; Susan married John Rex, of Ossian; Matilda J. married Felix J. Summers, of Jefferson Township; Ida A. is the wife of Sylvester Mills, of Lancaster Township, a native of Adams County; Granville married Miss Mary F. Short, of this county, and resides on the homestead, where the parents also reside, the father aged sixty-three and the mother sixty-one. All the children are well married and have homes and families. When sixteen years of age our subject enlisted in the late war, but was not accepted, and remained at home, engaged in farm work, which he continued as long as he remained under the parental roof. He married Miss Francina Archibald, daughter of Thomas and Phebe (Valentine) Archibald, who were pioneers of this county. The young couple commenced housekeeping on a farm in Adams County. The first purchase of land was made in 1873, it being the farm upon which they now reside. Mr. Rupright became a resident of Wells County in 1876, although he was reared from boyhood within a few rods of the line. He built his house

and barn the same year he moved into Jefferson Township. Soon after settling here Mr. Rupright became a member of the stock firm of A. Woodard & Co., which firm, for the past ten years, has done the largest stock business that has been done in the northern part of the county. In 1882 Mr. Rupright was nominated by the Democratic party for county commissioner, to which office he was elected and served four years. He is now serving his second term, and has given the greatest satisfaction. His father, for many years, served in an official capacity in Adams County; he was trustee eleven years, and county commissioner two terms. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Rupright, Granville and Nellie were born in Adams County, and Charles H. and Lulu M. were born in Wells County.

MONATHIAN KLINGEL, of Liberty Township, was born in Stark County, Ohio, December 24, 1816, son of George and Jane (Allman) Klingel, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and were among the first settlers of Stark County. He was reared on a farm, and received his education in the early subscription schools. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority, and in 1850 came to Indiana, settling in Huntington County. He was married in that county October 20, 1850, to Miss Elizabeth Jett, daughter of Daniel and Matilda (Hanson) Jett, who was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, May 7, 1835, and came to Indiana when about sixteen years of age. They settled upon a farm in Huntington County, where they lived three years, then removed to this county and located upon the present farm and built their residence in the timber. They now have 160 acres of well-

improved land, in a good state of cultivation. They are the parents of three children—Jane J., wife of Adoniram Johnson, of Liberty Center; Charles T., and Rosa Bell, wife of William E. Luckey. Mrs. Klingel is a member of the Baptist church. Politically Mr. Klingel was formerly a Whig, and afterward a Republican. He now affiliates with the Democratic party.

DANIEL F. MARKLEY, farmer, Harrison Township, was born in Wells County, Indiana, August 22, 1854, son of Gabriel Markley. He was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. He remained with his parents until he reached his majority, and December 31, 1874, he was married to Miss Jennie Hale, a daughter of Bowen Hale. He resided with his father-in-law one year, then settled upon his present farm, which his father had previously purchased. He has 128 acres of well-improved land. They have had seven children, six of whom are living—Alfred (deceased), Edith, Mary, Mertie, Hattie, Bowen and Archie. Politically Mr. Markley is a Republican.

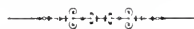
ISAAC DECKER, one of the old pioneers of Wells County, who is now deceased, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 1820, a son of Christian and Elizabeth (Albert) Decker, who were natives of the same State. He spent the early part of his life on a farm in his native county, and when a young man went to Fairfield County, Ohio, where he was married to a Miss Langle, and to this union was born one daughter—Lucinda. After his marriage he immigrated to Jay County, Indiana, where

he resided for a time, when on account of the ill health of his wife he returned to Fairfield County, where his wife died. He was again married in Montgomery County, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Houser, a daughter of Henry Houser. After his second marriage he returned to Jay County, Indiana, but his health failing he returned to Montgomery County, Ohio, where he made his home until 1853. He again returned to Indiana and settled on a farm in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, which his father had previously bought, and after residing there a year and a half he removed to Huntington County, and settled on a heavily-timbered farm of 160 acres which he had bought some time before. He cleared this farm and made improvements, residing on it eighteen months, when he returned to his father's farm in Wells County, which contained 160 acres. When he settled on this farm only nine acres had been cleared. He cleared and improved the remainder of the land, and here he followed farming the rest of his life. He died in 1868, at the age of forty-eight years, his widow surviving until 1872, her death occurring at the age of forty-seven years. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom still survive—Edward, Christena, Mary J., Maria R. and Isaac W. In his political views Mr. Decker was a Democrat. He was an active and public spirited citizen, and was always interested in any enterprise which had for its object the advancement of his township or county. Edward Decker, the eldest son of Isaac Decker, is one of the enterprising agriculturists of Rock Creek Township, and a highly respected citizen. He is a native of Ohio, born in Montgomery County, July 19, 1846. He was seven years old when his parents came to Wells County, and here he was reared on the home farm, receiving his education in the

common schools. He resided with his parents until their death, when he succeeded them in the old homestead, where he still follows agricultural pursuits. He was married in 1869, to Miss Rebecca L., daughter of John Houtz, of Rock Creek Township. They are the parents of seven children—Lydia E., Davilla N., George E., Charles W., John F., Rufus L. and Otto R. Both Mr. and Mrs. Decker are members of the Reformed church. In politics Mr. Decker casts his suffrage with the Democratic party.

JAMES A. GAVIN, one of the progressive and enterprising farmers of Chester Township, is a native of Ireland, born in County Clare September 12, 1824, a son of James and Mary (Austin) Gavin, his father being a member of the constabulary in Ireland. James A. received good educational advantages in the schools of his native country and became a teacher, which profession he followed almost five years in the national schools. After abandoning his profession he engaged in farming, but after spending a couple of years in agricultural pursuits in his native land, he decided to come to America where his brothers had previously come. In 1851 he immigrated from Cloughgordon, County Tipperary, for the United States, and the same year he located in Ross County, Ohio, where he remained until 1854. He was married in the year 1854 to Miss Amanda Bryant, a native of Ross County, and a daughter of George and Rhoda (Bragg) Bryant. To this union five children were born, and of this number four are yet living—Mary Elizabeth, wife of John Neal, of Poneto, Indiana; Jane, wife of T. S. Elder; Sarah Ellen, wife of Jeremiah Galvin, and Margaret. A daughter, Emily, is deceased.

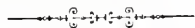
Mr. Gavin removed from Ross to Wells County, Indiana, and located on a farm in Harrison Township, where he made his home from 1854 until 1865. He then removed to the farm in Chester Township, where he has since resided. His land when he settled on it was in a state of nature, entirely unimproved, but by persevering toil and industry he has cleared and improved eighty acres of his farm, which consists of 160 acres. In politics Mr. Gavin votes independent, but affiliates with the Democratic party. He has served Chester Township as trustee, and at one time was county surveyor of Wells County, he having learned surveying in Ireland. He is a public-spirited citizen, and is always interested in any enterprise for the advancement of his township or county.



CAPTAIN SAMUEL J. KELLER, the oldest son of John and Rachel (Jamison) Keller, was born in Miami County, Ohio, December 10, 1825. His father died when he was nine years old, and his mother subsequently married John Barr. In 1843 he came to Wells County, Indiana, with his mother and step-father and located in Lancaster Township, where his mother died in 1847. Samuel J. began to care for himself at an early age, and the lessons of industry and frugality learned in his youth have been of great and lasting benefit to him. He followed farming until he was eighteen years of age, when he learned the brickmaker's trade, at which he worked in Huntington, Indiana, until 1850. He was married at Bluffton, Indiana, March 14, 1852, to Miss Melvina E. Wolleat. Her parents, Michael and Adaline Wolleat, having been pioneer settlers in Wells County. His children are seven—Samuel, Ella, wife of Frederick Mosinan, of Pleasant Lake, Indi-

ana, Catherine, Ada, Jane, Lydia and John. His wife, the mother of the above named children, died at Bluffton, Indiana. He came to Bluffton in 1850, where he became engaged in the manufacture of brick. In 1854 he moved to Rice County, Minnesota, and there engaged in making brick until 1858, when he returned to Bluffton and resumed brick-making until 1876. In the latter year he went with his family to San Jose, California, thence to Portland, Oregon, making a prospecting tour of four years. In 1880 he again returned to Bluffton, where he still resides. He has served his country in two wars. In the fall of 1847 he enlisted in the Mexican war as a private in Company K, Second Regiment of the regular United States army, to serve five years or during the war. While in said service he was principally on duty in the City of Mexico, and was discharged at the close of the war at Paeagonla, Mississippi. In August, 1861, he was commissioned Captain by Governor O. P. Morton, and recruited Company H, Forty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers. He was with his company and regiment until he was finally discharged at Indianapolis, Indiana, December 13, 1864, and participated in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged, including New Madrid, Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg, besides a large number of less important engagements, and he was with General Banks on his Red River expedition. In one of the skirmishes in that campaign he received a gun-shot wound which incapacitated him for duty for several weeks. In 1884 Captain Keller was commissioned postmaster at Bluffton, Indiana, by President Arthur, which office he held until 1886, when he resigned. He is a member of Lew Daily Post, No. 33, G. A. R., of Bluffton, Indiana. Captain Keller is a Master Mason, and has for many years been a member of Bluffton Lodge, No.

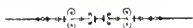
145, of Bluffton. In his early days Captain Keller was a noted hunter and trapper. He knows every foot of ground in this and adjoining counties. His keen eye and steady nerve made him an expert in the use of the gun and scores of deer have fallen by his steady aim, and not only deer and the game then usually found in Wells County, but when he was in the great West he enjoyed the excitement of hunting and killing the buffalo, which roamed in vast herds over the plains. Very few men have had the experience of Captain Keller as a hunter. His name is not only known in Wells County, but on the plains of Oregon and other Western States. As a soldier he has followed his country's flag in more than a hundred engagements. In Mexico, as a private, he saw the triumphant march of our troops into that city. As a commissioned officer, in the South, at New Madrid, Champion Hills and Vicksburg, he led his company like a true soldier and patriot, and when he again had seen the enemies of his country vanquished, he like a true and faithful subject settled down to a quiet life. Thus we have briefly sketched the life of one who was an early pioneer, a famous hunter, a brave and true soldier of two wars and a model citizen.



JOHN I. CLARK, farmer and stock-raiser, section 18, Liberty Township, was born in Huntington County, Indiana, August 12, 1840, the eldest son and second child of Sargent and Eunice (Irwin) Clark, natives of Guilford County, North Carolina. The father was born in 1813, a son of John Clark, also a native of North Carolina, and of Scotch-Irish ancestry. The mother was a daughter of John Irwin, a native of the same State, and the same ancestry. They removed to Indiana in 1837, settling in Huntington

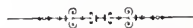
County, where Mr. Clark entered eighty acres of Government land, which he cleared and improved, and where he passed the remainder of his days. He died November 2, 1884, an honorable, Christian man, who won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He was seventy-one years of age at the time of his decease. Politically he affiliated with the Democratic party. His wife still resides on the farm he entered from the Government in 1837, and is sixty-eight years old. Of their eight children, four still survive. Our subject was reared on a farm, and his youth was passed in assisting his father in clearing and improving his land. He received a common-school education, and remained at home until he attained his majority, after which he worked out four years, then purchased his present farm of sixty-nine acres of heavily-timbered land. He has since added to his first purchase, and now owns 266 acres. He was married February 17, 1870, to Miss Nancy A. Helm, daughter of George and Nancy Helm, who came from Tennessee to Indiana about the year 1834, settling in Jefferson Township, Huntington County, where the father passed the remainder of his days. He was elected to many offices of trust during his life, and acquitted himself creditably. Mr. Clark settled upon a farm and has since been engaged in agriculture. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have four children—Viola P., Rufus B., Garnett E. and Lester E. Mr. Clark is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Bluffton, No. 114; of the Rebecca Lodge, No. 83; Patrons of Husbandry, Salem Grange, No. 760. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party. Although not a member of any church, he donated the land and a good part of the timber to build one. His improvements are among the best in the township. Until 1887 he lived in the old log cabin, but now has a

new frame residence. His barn, built in 1883, is 40 x 80 feet, and 20 feet in height. Mr. Clark is a very temperate man, using no intoxicating drinks or tobacco in any form.



SAMUEL FOUST is a native of Indiana, born in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, May 17, 1841, a son of Jonathan and Nancy (Shaffer) Foust. He was reared on the old homestead in his native county, where he was early in life inured to hard work, helping his father to clear and cultivate the farm, but the lessons of persevering industry learned in those days have been of lasting benefit to him. He was married May 17, 1861, to Miss Margery King, a native of Wells County, and daughter of Gabriel and Susan King, old settlers of Liberty Township. Mr. and Mrs. Foust have had six children, of whom four are living—William, Ella May, Benjamin Alvadore and Charles Arthur. Jonathan, Adam and Jacob Sylvester are deceased. Mr. Foust lived with his parents until about two years after his marriage, when he bought forty acres of partially cleared land, adjoining the old homestead, on which he lived until coming to his present farm on section 1, Jackson Township, in September, 1875. His home farm consists of ninety-six acres, of which about seventy-six acres have been cleared, and most of this has been done by himself. Besides this land he owns another tract of fifty-nine acres, where he has thirty acres cleared. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party, and has held the office of supervisor since becoming a resident of Jackson Township. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church at Salem, of which he is trustee. Three of Mr. Foust's brothers were soldiers in the war of the Rebellion, Jonathan and Adam being

members of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and Jacob belonging to the Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. Jonathan Foust, the father of our subject, was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and when a young man removed with his parents to Highland County, Ohio, where they lived until their death. He was married in Highland County to Miss Nancy Shaffer, who was a native of Maryland. In 1839 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Foust came by team to Indiana and located on the old Foust farm in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, across the line from Jackson Township, Wells County. The father had entered there 160 acres of heavily timbered land on which not a tree had been cut, and he immediately began clearing a space on which to build his cabin. He was a great worker, and before many years had his farm cleared and improved, and he and his wife lived to enjoy the fruits of their years of toil, and after passing through all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life are now surrounded with all the necessary comforts of life, yet living on the old homestead in Salamonie Township, the father aged eighty-five years, and the mother eighty-three years of age. In politics Jonathan Foust was formerly a Democrat, but has affiliated with the Republican party since its organization.

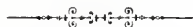


SAMUEL WATTS, deceased, a pioneer of Nottingham Township, was born in Pennsylvania, and in 1802 accompanied his parents to Columbiana County, Ohio. His father, Thomas Watts, was the first sheriff of that county, serving two terms. The family, in 1818, moved to Richland County, where Samuel was married in 1830 to Martha M. Paxson, who was born in Chester



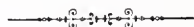
C. S. Cotton

County, Pennsylvania, in 1807. In 1847 he moved to Jay County, Indiana, and in April, 1848, moved to Wells County, where he died in March, 1859. In politics Mr. Watts was first a Whig, and then a Republican. He was trustee of his township one term, and was the first postmaster at Nottingham, the office being kept at his house. After his death the office was in charge of a daughter seven years. For several years his house was the only one where travelers could be accommodated, and it became known far and near. He was an enterprising, public-spirited man, and one of the most prominent of the early settlers. His family consisted of four sons and two daughters. One son, Ira P., a resident of Randolph County, has been clerk of the courts four years, and in 1875 received the nomination of Secretary of State, but was defeated, although he ran ahead of his ticket. Another son, Stephen M., enlisted in the first call for three months' troops, and afterward enlisted in the three years' service, and was killed by bushwhackers near Nashville, Tennessee, in the spring of 1862.



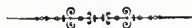
S. COTTON, farmer and stock raiser, Rock Creek Township, was born in Holmes County, Ohio, December 30, 1840, a son of Samuel Cotton. When he was four years of age his parents came to Wells County, Indiana, and settled in Rock Creek Township, where he grew to manhood, his youth being spent in assisting his father on his farm and attending the schools of his neighborhood. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which occurred September 6, 1860, taking for his wife Miss Margaret Torance, a daughter of Francis Torance. She was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and came to America when eight years of age. Four

children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cotton—Sumner Wellington, a farmer of Rock Creek Township; Sarah Lizzie, wife of Jacob A. Funk, of Rock Creek Township; Minnie, died aged sixteen years, and Charlie L. After his marriage Mr. Cotton settled on a tract of forty acres of unimproved land in Liberty Township which his father had given him. He cleared and improved this land, living on it until 1865, when he sold it and bought eighty acres where he now resides, which was then entirely unimproved. Since that time he has cleared his land, which he has brought under a good state of cultivation, and his improvements are among the best in his neighborhood, his land being well fenced and well drained, and his residence and farm buildings commodious and convenient. He also owns 120 acres located a short distance from his home farm which is under cultivation. With the exception of the forty acres given him by his father he has acquired his property by his own persevering industry and good management. In connection with his general farming he has been extensively engaged in dealing in and shipping stock, and is now one of the oldest stock shippers in the county, beginning this enterprise in 1864, and is still largely engaged in dealing in stock. In his political views Mr. Cotton affiliates with the Republican party. He is a member of the Baptist church, and his wife belongs to the United Presbyterian church.



D. FITZPATRICK, physician and surgeon, Vera Cruz, was born in Delaware County, Indiana, August 13, 1829, a son of William and Catherine (Hoek) Fitzpatrick, the former a native of Kentucky and of Irish-English ancestry, the latter a native

of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. His youth was passed in attending school. In 1853 he began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. Jelleff, of Vera Cruz, remained with him three years, then formed a partnership with him for two years. In 1856 he was married to Miss Mary A. Bennett, daughter of Joshua Bennett, of this county, and they had one child, who died at the age of one year. Mrs. Fitzpatrick died soon after the birth of her child. The doctor then went to Camden, Jay County, where he followed his profession three years. His second marriage was with Miss Catherine S. Peirce, of Randolph County, this State, who was a native of Pennsylvania. Soon after this occurred he came to Vera Cruz, and had a successful practice for a period of twenty-six years. For the past four years he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1883 he embarked in the mercantile trade with A. B. Shoemaker, his interests being represented by his son James F. Two years later he and his son purchased his partner's interest. He has sixty-five acres of well cultivated and well improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzpatrick have had six children, three of whom are living—James F., born May 20, 1864; Edward V., born May 18, 1866, and Charles P., born April 27, 1873. Mrs. Fitzpatrick has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church ever since her childhood. Politically the doctor affiliates with the Republican party.



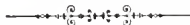
THOMAS ARCHIBALD, retired farmer, Ossian, was the son of Patrick and Francena (McLean) Archibald, who were born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Thomas Archibald, was born in Virginia; the grandmother,

Mary, was of Welsh ancestry. The McLeans were of Irish origin. They remained in Pennsylvania, and the Archibalds removed to Harrison, Ohio, and later to Tuscarawas County, same State. In 1848 the parents of our subject, with a part of their children, came to Wells County, settling in Jefferson Township, on the tract of land now owned by Martin Heckle. Their children were—Joseph, John, Thomas, William, who died in infancy, Lettice, Ann, Mary, Francena, Sarah A. and Rebecca. All were married and came to this county except Sarah. Joseph married Elyla Vanhorn; John married Elizabeth Gibson; Lettice married Azariah Vanhorn; Ann married William Gibson; Mary is the wife of George Gibson; Francena married Thomas Hay; Sarah A. married Thomas Mullen, and Rebecca married Robert Green. Our subject was born in Harrison County, Ohio, September 19, 1811. He was married in Ohio to Miss Phebe Valentine, and five of their children were born in that State. They came to Wells County and made a location in the fall of 1848. Samuel T. (deceased), Robert, John, Mary J. and Emmett B. were born in Ohio, and Francena, Lydia and James were born in Jefferson Township. Mr. Archibald purchased his land for \$200. Not a stick had been cut except by the roving hunter, and the work of making a home in the new country devolved upon Thomas and his eldest son. A cabin was built on the northeast corner of his land, where his family spent the winter of 1848-49. Their house was fitted up with furniture made by Richard Trenary, who is now deceased. Benches were made of basswood, and bedsteads were made by putting a hole in a log which formed one of the walls of the cabin, then by setting a post on the floor into which two holes were bored and sticks inserted at right angles that

were lashed together with strips of basswood bark, upon which the bedding was placed. Mr. Archibald was not alone in this primitive manner of house furnishing; it was almost universal in the new country. The early settlers were mostly poor people, and for the first ten years Mr. Archibald depended almost entirely upon the manufacture of black salts for the money necessary to support his family. As the timber was burned, the ashes were gathered and placed in a great leach, which was drained and the lye evaporated in kettles until it became stiff. This was sold at about \$3.00 per hundred pounds, and found a ready market at Fort Wayne and other towns. The timber was very heavy and it took years of toil to make a small farm. To add to the misfortunes of Mr. Archibald, he was attacked with rheumatism the next spring after he came to the county, and those were the darkest hours of his life; for without money, the spring time at hand, and the song of the ax that was heard on every tract except his own, made the time pass slowly. His neighbors came in and showed by kindly acts that he was not only welcome, but was highly appreciated in the new country. He thinks their attention made him a better neighbor than he otherwise might have been. As each cloud has a silver lining, so were the lonely hours then spent to be dissipated by joy and succeeding prosperity. His first crop was a good one, and from that time he has been prosperous. He has bought and sold several tracts of land, and his ventures have been successful in every respect. Of his children, Samuel was the first one married; his wife was formerly Mahala Shney, and they have three daughters—Mary B., wife of Daniel C. Double, Phebe Luella and Ida May. Mary J. married Jacob Yager, and has four children living—Maggie, wife of Edward France,

Charles, Lydia and Phebe; John became the husband of Harriet Kiser, and they had five children—Charles W., Thomas (deceased), Franklin, Emmett and Emory D.; Robert married Ursilla Metts, and they have six children—Myrtle, Fleetwood, Thomas, Harry, Hope and Golda; Lydia married Andrew J. Cartwright, and they have five children—Leona M., Alfred, Marcellus, Thomas and Hattie O.; Francena is the wife of Henry Rupright, the commissioner of Wells County, and has had four children—Wence Gradville, Nellie, Charles (deceased), and Lola; Emmett B. married Louisa Caid, and they have four children—Joseph, George, Curtis and Blanche; James, the youngest son, was attacked with rheumatism, and for several years has been confined to the house. The death of Mrs. Archibald occurred in 1855. Her husband, during all the long years that have intervened, has remained true to her memory, and has never married. His children have been reared, have married, and are all settled in life. The log cabin has long since been replaced by modern buildings, and the great oaks have been removed from the fertile soil. While these changes have wrought a complete revolution on the face of the country, it has also changed the young to the old; the old man who sits by a glowing fire surrounded by his children and grandchildren, with wealth at his command, is hardly recognized as the pioneer of forty years ago. His hair is streaked with gray, but his mind is keenly alive to the scenes and incidents of the early days. Mr. Archibald served several terms as township trustee, and also as assessor; but he has repeatedly refused to become a candidate for official positions. When a candidate he has never been defeated. His first presidential vote was cast for Andrew Jackson. He has been a member of the Presbyterian church since 1850, and helped to

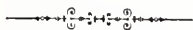
build the first church in the township. He has three great-grandchildren, whose mother, Mary B. Double, was the daughter of Samuel Archibald, Thomas' eldest son.



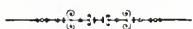
MRS. SARAH A. BUNN is the widow of Jacob Bunn, and both were born in Pennsylvania. The husband was born near Mercersburg, Franklin County, in 1804, and our subject at Newberg, Cumberland County. Jacob was a son of Nicholas and Rosanna Bunn, and when thirty years of age he left Pennsylvania and settled at Manchester, Stark County, Ohio. The mother of our subject, Barbara Wheeler, died in Pennsylvania, and her father, Daniel Wheeler, with five children, John, Jacob, Lena, Thomas and Sarah A., emigrated in 1825 to Stark County, Ohio, where our subject formed the acquaintance of and married Jacob Bunn in 1836. Three years later they removed to this county, settling upon the land that Mrs. Bunn yet owns. Jacob had entered the land the year previous, and engaged some of the residents to build a cabin, that his family might have suitable shelter when they arrived. Two children, James and Dennis, were born in Stark County, and were small children when their parents settled in their western home. They were the eighth family to settle in Jefferson Township. A wagon drawn by one horse, containing necessary bedding, with wife and babies, completed the load. Mrs. Bunn drove the horse while her husband attended to the two cows that were driven through. Two young men accompanied them, but they remained only a short time. When they arrived in 1839 not a stick had been cut except where the cabin stood; but that autumn found two acres cleared and sown to wheat. During the win-

ter several acres more were cleared for corn, and the coming spring found the enterprising farmer ready to plant his crop. The malarial atmosphere brought the ague, which prevailed extensively; yet the heroic pair held bravely on, until by their united exertions the heavy forests had melted away and a nice farm was opened up in the wildwood. The rude log cabin was replaced by a neat hewed-log house, which in turn gave way to the substantial frame building. Their first barn was built of hewed logs, and still stands a monument to the memory of pioneer days, and its builder, Jacob Bunn. Other children came to grace their home—Harriet, David, Jennette, Caroline, Lewis, Isabella, Sabina, Mary and Harrison. Jacob Bunn was for a number of years a member of the Dunkard church, and died firm in that faith. His death occurred in the autumn of 1877, having lived long enough to see a large family well settled in life. Harriet married Dr. A. H. Metts, and is now deceased; Jennette married Henry Gaillhouse, a resident of Ohio; Caroline is the wife of Samuel Hughes, who lives on the Bunn homestead; Isabella became the wife of Elza Justus, now in the lumber trade in Mississippi; Sabina married Clarence Carr, and they live in Ossian; Mary E. married Cyrus Weaver, a carpenter and joiner, of Decatur, Indiana; James, deceased, was a farmer, and married Susan Trenary, and they had three children; David married Almira Springer, of Ohio, and has since resided in that State; Lewis and Harrison are unmarried. David was a soldier during the late war, serving in an Ohio regiment, and went through the entire war, except when confined in a rebel prison. Jacob Bunn was a large-hearted man, and the pioneers still speak of his death with regret, as it took from their midst one of the most prosperous and exemplary men. Mrs. Bunn is in her

seventieth year, and is still hale and vigorous. She has a pleasant home in Ossian, and is surrounded by her children, two of whom make their home with her. Her lot in life is such as befits one who has lived well and truly.



WILLIAM MERTZ, Jr., druggist, Vera Cruz, was born in Wells County, Indiana, December 22, 1852, a son of Wilhelm and Anna (Engeler) Mertz. He attended school until fourteen years of age, and in October, 1868, went to Kendallville, Noble County, to learn the harness-maker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He then returned to his native village and opened a shop and followed his trade about two years. In January, 1874, he purchased a drug store, and has since followed that business. He was appointed postmaster under the administration of President Grant, which office he has since retained. He has also held the office of town clerk and of school trustee. He was married August 1, 1875, to Miss Lucinda Miller, who was born in Nottingham Township, November 11, 1854, a daughter of Michael and Mary Miller. To this union three children have been born—Edward Leander, John Roy and Mary Ann. Himself and wife are members of the Evangelical Association, and politically he affiliates with the Democratic party.



WILHELM MERTZ, of Harrison Township, was born in Thieringen OA Balingen KR Württemberg, May 19, 1821, the youngest of nine children of Siegfried and Ann Mary Mertz. When fourteen years of age he went to learn the shoemaker's

trade, serving three years as an apprentice. He then worked as a journeyman in his native country for three years, and in Switzerland six years. May 10, 1849, accompanied by his affianced wife, he started for the United States, and was on the water thirty-six days. During this time he was seriously ill with the small-pox, not being able to leave his berth. They arrived in New York on the sixteenth day of June, went up the Hudson River to Albany, thence to Buffalo by canal, then across Lake Erie to Cleveland and Toledo, thence by canal to Fort Wayne, occupying a period of over three weeks. From Fort Wayne they walked to Decatur, near where they had relatives living, but not being able to speak English they went six miles beyond their destination before discovering their mistake. Tired and foot-sore, they were obliged to retrace their steps over the rough roads. From Decatur they again started in pursuit of their relatives, a distance of twelve miles, reaching their destination at night. On the way they met a man named Diehl who volunteered to show them the way. He took his gun, which, being a strange article to the travelers, made them a little afraid of their guide. After a tedious journey they found their friends, but Mr. Mertz was again taken sick, and for thirteen weeks was confined to the house with ague and bilious fever. August 3, 1849, he was married to Anna Engeler, daughter of John and Magdalene Engeler, and the following October came to what is now Vera Cruz, there being one frame house and one log house at that time. They moved into a cabin near the town, making a table of a trunk, and two chairs of elapboards, and in this way they went to housekeeping, as happy as it was possible for two persons to be. Mr. Mertz at once began to work at his trade, going from house to house among the farmers to make their shoes

Upon one occasion he went to the house of Mr. Prillaman and repaired all the old shoes. Not being able to tell them that he was ready to take their measures for the new shoes, he began packing up his tools. They, thinking he was going, all put up their feet. He took their measures and completed his work. He soon built a house for himself, and the town began to grow. In 1853 he built a shop in his residence and diligently followed his trade until 1860, then added to his business as the necessity of the country demanded. He carried on a shoe store until 1867, then purchased a half interest in a woolen factory, having Frederick Engeler for a partner three years. In 1870 his health began to fail, and he has been unable to attend to active business since. Mr. and Mrs. Mertz have three children—Siegfried died at the age of sixteen years and the eldest, a daughter, died in infancy, and William, Jr., who is in the drug business. The parents are members of the Evangelical Association, and in politics Mr. Mertz affiliates with the Democratic party.

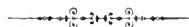
DANIEL GLASS, farmer and stock-raiser, Harrison Township, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, September 12, 1830, son of Matthew and Polly (Kissner) Glass, who were natives of Ohio, and of German-English descent. He remained on the farm in his native county until he was eighteen years of age, at which time he emigrated to this county with his father's family, who settled in Liberty Township, where his father had purchased 320 acres of unimproved land. They immediately began to clear and improve the land and make a home. The father lived on this farm for many years, then removed to Bluffton, where he passed the remainder of his

days, his death occurring February 20, 1876. The mother had previously died in Ohio, and the father married Rachel Humphrey for a second wife. Our subject resided with his father until his marriage, which occurred November 8, 1852, with Miss Margaret Porter, daughter of Robin Porter, who was born in Mahoning County, Ohio. After marriage they settled in Liberty Township, where they lived three years, then removed to Harrison Township, and came to his present farm in 1870, where he owned fifty acres of improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Glass have one child—Arena, wife of Jacob Thompson, residing in Liberty Township. Mr. and Mrs. Glass are members of the Christian church, and politically Mr. Glass is a Democrat. Robin Porter, the father of Mrs. Glass, is one of the few early settlers of Wells County that are now living. He was born in Pennsylvania about the year 1796, son of Aaron Porter, who removed from Maryland to Pennsylvania, thence to Ohio when a boy. He married Elizabeth Parshall when a boy, and in 1849 removed to Wells County, settling in Liberty Township. His wife died in Ohio, leaving twelve children. He was married a second time to Jane Burroughs, and they had two children. His second wife died and he afterward made his home with Mr. Glass. He is now ninety-one years of age. He is a member of the Disciple church, and retains his mental vigor to a remarkable degree.

AZRA C. CROASDALE, farmer, section 15, Liberty Township, was born in Warren County, Ohio, October 31, 1820, youngest son of Joseph and Lydia (Crosley) Croasdale. His father died before he was born, and while he was an infant his mother removed to Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

nia, where he was reared on a farm, receiving his education in the common schools. When he was ten years of age his mother died, and he went to live with a Quaker by the name of Knight, with whom he remained until he was sixteen years of age. He then worked in various places for about four years, then shipped aboard a coasting vessel for the West Indies, where he was taken sick and obliged to remain nearly a year. He then returned to North Carolina, thence to New York and up the Hudson River to Skaneateles, where he remained eight months, and then returned to Philadelphia for two years, thence to Clinton County, Ohio, where he was married December 9, 1845, to Miss Ruth Ann Walker, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Ruland) Walker, who were natives of Kentucky and came to Ohio in an early day. After his marriage he remained in Clinton County seven years, five years of the time being engaged in selling goods. In October, 1852, they came to Indiana, settling in Huntington County, where they lived three years, then came to Wells County, where Mr. Croasdale purchased eighty acres of partially improved land on section 15, Liberty Township, where he has resided thirty-three years. He has since added eighty acres, and now owns 123 acres of well improved and well cultivated land. Mr. and Mrs. Croasdale have had six children—Nathan R., Robert W., Susanna, wife of Henry Mendenhall, and now deceased, Amos (deceased), Elizabeth Ellen, wife of James Baeus, and Lydia J. Nathan R. married Miss Jane Hartley, March 12, 1875, and they have two children—Alfred and Annie Emily. Robert W. married Martha Clowser, January 1, 1873, and they had two children—Ezra Demint and Robert Henry. His wife died October 1, 1875, and he was married again to Eliza Jane Ernst, July 25, 1878. They have three children—Augustus

Amos, Charles Clinton and Minnie. Mr. and Mrs. Croasdale are members of the Christian church, and politically he affiliates with the Republican party. He is a self-made man, having earned all he has by industry and economy.



JOHN V. MERRIMAN, farmer, section 20, Liberty Township, was born in that township February 11, 1845, the second son of James M. Merriman. He was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority, then went to Preble County, Ohio, where he was married, January 1, 1868, to Miss Mary E. Stambach, daughter of William and Nancy A. (McElhana) Stambach, who were natives of Preble County, and probably of German ancestry. Mr. Merriman settled upon a farm in Jackson Township, this county, where he remained until the death of his wife, which occurred February 8, 1872. They had two children—Jennie L., and Rosa B., who died at the age of four months. Mr. Merriman returned to the old homestead and remained with his father until his second marriage, which occurred February 28, 1874, with Miss Mary E. Foreman, daughter of Obadiah and Sarah (Hamilton) Foreman. The father was a native of Virginia, and removed to Clinton County, Ohio, when a young man. The mother was born in Kentucky, and removed to Clinton County, Ohio, in an early day. Mrs. Merriman was born in Clinton County, Ohio. Mr. Merriman first located in Huntington County and lived there six years, then purchased his present farm, which contains eighty acres of improved land. By his second marriage were seven children—Curtis, Lena M., Otto M., Milton E., Leroy,

Anna B. and Fanny. Lena M. died April 6, 1887. Mr. Merriman served one term as township assessor; is a member of King Lodge, No. 246, F. & A. M., and is a member of the Methodist Protestant church. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party.

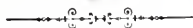
JOHN W. RINEAR, of Liberty Center, was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, March 4, 1842, eldest son of Charles Rinear, who was born in Burlington County, New Jersey, July 7, 1816. His mother, Jane S. (Parker) Rinear, was born in Genesee County, New York, May 16, 1820. Charles was a son of John Rinear, also born in Burlington County, New Jersey, and of French descent. When Charles was five years of age his parents emigrated to Columbiana County, Ohio, settling upon a farm. He remained at home until he reached his majority, and was married December 25, 1840, his wife being a daughter of Silas and Esther (Montgomery) Parker, who were natives of New York and of English ancestry. After his marriage he was engaged in farming in Cuyahoga County until 1847, then removed to Indiana and settled in Huntington County until 1854, then removed to Wells County, where he located on section 21, Liberty Township. He followed farming until 1886, when failing health compelled him to change his occupation, and he removed to Liberty Center and rented his farm of 120 acres and retired from active business. Mr. Rinear has officiated as deacon of the Baptist church over forty years. His wife is also a member of that church. In politics he is a Republican. Of their six children, five are living—John W., Elias M., Emma S., George F. and Mary J.; Charles died at the age of twenty-four years. Our subject was twelve

years old when he came to Wells County. He was educated in the common schools, and remained at home until the breaking out of the civil war, when he enlisted, September 25, 1861, in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. While at the mouth of White River, Arkansas, he received a wound which confined him to the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, where he contracted chronic diarrhoea, for which he was honorably discharged October 7, 1862. He returned home, and April 2, 1863, was married to Miss Sarah C. First, who was born in Liberty Township, Wells County, Indiana, February 23, 1843, daughter of Jacob First, who was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1811, and a son of George and Catherine (Smith) First, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and of German parentage, the latter a native of Virginia, whose father was drowned before her birth. George First and his family removed to Wayne County, Ohio, in 1819, where Jacob was reared on a farm and remained until he reached his majority. He was married September 8, 1831, to Miss Hannah Stonebrook, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Frederick Stonebrook, also a native of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Wayne County, where he lived until September, 1841, then came to Wells County, where he entered 160 acres of land from the Government, on section 29, Liberty Township, where he resided forty years, and still owns the farm. Of their ten children, six are now living—Israel, Solomon, Mary J., Sarah C., Celiuda and Thomas E.; the deceased are—George W., Sarah J., Caroline, and one that died in infancy. Mrs. First died July 13, 1860, and June 7, 1861, Mr. First was married to Mrs. Julia A. Campbell, a sister of his first wife, whose first husband was Robert Campbell. She died in 1877.



John W. Rinear

In 1843 Mr. First was elected to the office of township trustee, an office he held many years. In 1856 he was elected justice of the peace, and held the office twelve years. He is a member of the German Baptist church, and in politics, a Democrat. Mr. John W. Rinear, after his marriage, was engaged in farming until 1877, then embarked in the mercantile trade at Liberty Center, a business he followed until 1883, and is now farming. In 1872 he was elected justice of the peace and served twelve years, and in 1877 was appointed postmaster of Liberty Center, holding the office until January 1, 1880. Mr. Rinear is a staunch Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Rinear have one child—Hannah S., wife of John B. Funk, a druggist at Liberty Center; she was the first white child born in the village. Mr. Rinear has 275 acres of improved land. He belongs to the Odd Fellows fraternity at Bluffton, Lodge 114, also a member of *Lew Daily Post*, No. 33, G. A. R., of Bluffton, Indiana.



LEWIS PRILLAMAN, farmer, Harrison Township, was born in Miami County, Ohio, March 26, 1825, the oldest son and the second of nine children of William and Sarah Prillaman, natives of Virginia. The father was a son of Christopher Prillaman, probably of German descent. The mother was a daughter of Obadiah Winter, a native of New York and of English ancestry. William Prillaman came to Miami County when eight years of age, with his parents, where he was reared on a farm, and was there married. He followed farming until 1830, then removed to Shelby County, remaining until May 14, 1838, when he removed with his family to Wells County and purchased eighty acres of land on section 12, of David

Miller, for \$500. He afterward purchased 200 acres, for which he paid \$2.50 per acre. He bought it of Jesse Whitmore. Mr. Prillaman has served as county commissioner, and in 1842-'43 he represented his county in the Legislature. Himself and wife were active members of the Christian church, and politically he affiliated with the Democratic party until 1854, then joined the People's party. He died March 16, 1855. His wife survived him eighteen years, and died April 8, 1873, at the age of sixty-eight years. They started in life without means, but by dint of hard labor and close attention to his business he accumulated a large property. By honest and upright dealings he won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Our subject was thirteen years old when he came with his parents to Wells County. His youth was spent in assisting his father in clearing and improving his farm, and in attending the subscription schools of the early day. In 1845 he commenced teaching school, teaching for two years at \$12 per month. He was married May 27, 1847, to Miss Maria Studebaker, a daughter of William and Sarah (Thompson) Studebaker. After his marriage he settled upon a portion of the farm his father had purchased, and turned his attention to agriculture. In 1855 he purchased his father's farm, and now has a landed estate of 280 acres of improved land. It is conceded to be one of the best farms in the county. They had eleven children, ten of whom are living—Albina, died at the age of three years; Maria, wife of P. Rogers; William; Sarah J., wife of John Bixler; Lucinda J., wife of Charles Capp; Henry A., Cora Bell and Cora May (twins), Zella L., Mary L. and Lewis D. Mrs. Prillaman died May 1, 1850, and March 30, 1855, Mr. Prillaman was married to Miss Elizabeth M. Bayman, daughter of William Bayman, a native of

Darke County, Ohio. The second wife died in 1868, and September 1, 1870, Mr. Prillaman married Maria Masterson, a native of this county, and daughter of Conklin Masterson. She lived until January 12, 1873, and June 1, 1883, he married Laura A. Ripple, of Mahoning County, Ohio, and a daughter of John Ripple, who came to Adams County in 1864. Mr. Prillaman has served in several township offices, and in 1868 was elected county commissioner for three years, being the only Republican commissioner elected in the county. Himself and wife are members of the Christian church.

—•••••—

WILLIAM GRAHAM, an active and enterprising citizen, and a successful agriculturist, of Rock Creek Township, is a native of Ireland, born in County Donegal, November 26, 1848, a son of Robert and Jane (Greggs) Graham. He passed his youth in his native country, being reared on a farm, and receiving his education in the common schools. He left the home roof in 1865, sailing from Liverpool, England, August 7 of that year, and after a voyage of nine days landed in New York. He came to Wells County, Indiana, the same year, and being in limited circumstances worked at whatever he could find to do, and was employed at farming, in mercantile pursuits, and at the stonemason's and bricklayer's trade, and by hard work and economical habits he accumulated means to purchase his present farm, which then consisted of eighty acres of heavily-timbered land. He immediately began to clear and improve his land, and by persevering energy and his industrious habits he has brought his land under a fine state of cultivation, and has prospered in his farming operations. October 11, 1877,

he was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Wallace, a daughter of Thomas Wallace, and to them have been born two children—Thomas and Robert. Both Mr. and Mrs. Graham are members of the Presbyterian church, and are numbered among the respected citizens of Rock Creek Township. In politics Mr. Graham affiliates with the Republican party.

—•••••—

WILLIAM HARPER, deceased, an old pioneer of Nottingham Township, was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in 1804. He passed his childhood and youth in his native State, and when a young man went to Warren County, Ohio, where he married Elizabeth Ann Jennings, a native of New Jersey, born in 1808, her parents being pioneers of Warren County. In 1846 Mr. Harper moved to Indiana and settled in Nottingham Township, Wells County, where he died January 11, 1885. His widow is now living in Hastings, Nebraska, with a daughter. They had a family of thirteen children, ten of whom grew to maturity. When Mr. Harper settled in Wells County the country was heavily timbered and game was plenty. He entered a half section of land at \$1.25 an acre, which he cleared and improved, and at his death it was one of the most valuable farms in the township.

—•••••—

JAMES HARVEY, deceased, was one of Lancaster Township's pioneers, establishing his residence on section 19 in the autumn of 1833. He came with his family, following the Indian trails, and lived the following winter in a rude log cabin without door or windows, using blankets to

keep out the cold blasts. In the spring they were able to plant a few vegetables, but for a time life was a struggle. Mr. Harvey was born near Knoxville, Tennessee, and is a brother of Robert Harvey, who settled on the present site of Murray in 1832. He was married in Union County, Ohio, to Miss Sarah Davis, who was born in Greene County, Tennessee, October 11, 1811, a daughter of George and Susan (Miller) Davis. Mr. Harvey died in 1842, after he had made a home and was beginning to enjoy the fruits of his labors. He left three children, all of whom are deceased. In 1851 Mrs. Harvey married David Aker, a native of Wythe County, West Virginia, and they have one son—William R. Mrs. Aker lives on the old Harvey homestead, and is the only one of the pioneers of 1833 left in Wells County, and to her we are indebted for many recollections of pioneer life.

SAMUEL STRAW, JR., farmer and stock-raiser, of Rock Creek Township, was born in Wells County, Indiana, the date of his birth being December 16, 1849. His parents, Samuel and Mary (Crum) Straw, had born to them ten children, of whom our subject was the second son and fourth child. He grew to manhood in his native township (Rock Creek), his youth being passed in assisting his father on the farm, and in attending the district schools, where he received a fair common-school education. He resided on the home farm until his marriage, which occurred November 8, 1874, to Miss Sarah A. Arnold, a daughter of Moses and Mary A. (Bartlemay) Arnold, of Harrison Township, Wells County. Mr. and Mrs. Straw are the parents of three children—Mary E., Charles E. and Henry E. After his marriage Mr.

Straw settled on section 24, of Rock Creek Township, on a farm which his father had purchased in 1872, where he has since made his home, and has brought his land under good cultivation, and by his industrious habits and fair and honorable dealings he has gained the confidence of the entire community. Besides his home farm, he also owns property in and around Bluffton. In politics Mr. Straw affiliates with the Republican party. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church.

GEORGE C. DITZLER, lumber dealer, was born in Crawford County, Ohio, son of George and Catherine (Sauerbaugh) Ditzler, natives of Pennsylvania, in which State they were married. They removed to Crawford County about the year 1852, bringing with them four children—Sarah, Belinda, Susanna and Mary. John R., George C., Alice and Frank were born in Ohio. The family settled in Gallion, where the father worked at the carpenter and joiner's trade. Later he purchased a farm near Gallion, and the family removed to the country. In 1864 they came to Wells County, settling in Rock Creek Township, on the Wabash River, upon the farm now owned by George C. and his brother John. The parents are now living a retired life in Murray. All the children are married, and all live in Indiana except Susanna and Alice. Susanna became the wife of John Shorey, who is now deceased, and later became the wife of Jacob Strausbaugh. Sarah married Jacob Alshouse; Belinda became the wife of Lemuel Line; Mary married John Schoch, and after his death married his brother Samuel; John R. married Catherine Brickley; Alice married Charles Taylor, and resides in Missouri;

Franklin is the husband of Lulu Seehler, and George C., our subject, married Laura Teeple February 6, 1879, Rev. Jonathan Markley, a minister of the New Light church, performing the ceremony. Mrs. Ditzler's parents were residents of Adams County for several years. They removed to Butler County, Iowa, in which county Mrs. Ditzler was born in 1857. At the breaking out of the civil war Samuel Teeple, the father, enlisted as a volunteer and died while in the service. His children were eight in number—Sarah, Jane, Rebecca, Dorothy A., Mary M., Laura E., Henry I. and Lavina A. Rebecca and Lavina A. are deceased. Sarah married David Harker; Jane became the wife of Jacob Loop; Rebecca married Eli Townsend; Dorothy married Solomon Swank; Mary M. became the wife of Ed. Musgrove, of Sherman City, Michigan; Henry married Rebecca Miller, and Lavina married Thomas Fox. The mother is now the wife of Daniel Wischaupt, a resident of Murray. Mr. Ditzler purchased a mill at Murray prior to his marriage, and the young couple began their domestic life in that village. This mill was sold in 1882, and Mr. Ditzler took a large contract of furnishing material for the building of the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad, that had been surveyed out and the road bed partly graded. He immediately began the erection of a new mill, which was completed the same year. It is the largest mill in the county, having a capacity of 15,000 feet. Since its completion in May, 1882, Mr. Ditzler has furnished most of the ties and bridge timbers for some distance each way from where Uniondale is located. This is a merchant mill, and is run to its full capacity nearly all the time, employing on an average twenty hands and from six to eight teams. It is the principal industry of the village, and has been a great source of revenue and has done everything

toward building up the town. Mr. Ditzler's residence was the first one completed in the village, located only a few feet from his present home. His mill turns out 2,000,000 feet of lumber annually, most of which is furnished to different railroads. His mill cut the material for the first as well as all the houses in town. Mr. and Mrs. Ditzler have had three children—William H., Charles F. and Ray L. Charles was the first child born in the village of Uniondale; date, December 5, 1882.

ANDREW DILLMAN, deceased, was one of the prominent agriculturists of Jackson Township, as well as a much respected citizen. He was a Kentuckian by birth, born in Bracken County, February 12, 1811. His parents, John and Lydia (Roer) Dillman, settled in Ohio when he was a child, and in that State he grew to manhood, being reared to the avocation of a farmer, which he made his life work. He was united in marriage in Brown County, Kentucky, November 19, 1835, to Sarah Kilander, a native of Kentucky, born January 15, 1819, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Dillman) Kilander, natives of the State of Virginia. Her parents subsequently removed to Ohio, where they lived until 1851. In that year they came to Wells County, Indiana, and made their home in Jackson Township until their death. They were members of the Disciple church. They left at their death a family of five children, three sons and two daughters, all of whom are yet living except one. Thirteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dillman, ten still living—Mary, Susan, Lydia, Levi, Jacob, John, Sidney, Alice, William and Minnie. Mr. Dillman followed farming in Ohio until April, 1854, when he came with his family to

Wells County, Indiana, and settled on section 19, Jackson Township, where he lived until his death, which occurred February 2, 1886. His widow still resides on the old homestead. She is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Dillman was also a worthy member of the same church until his death. In politics he affiliated with the Democratic party. He was an enterprising and public-spirited man, taking an active interest in the affairs of his township. The postoffice at Dillman was named in honor of him.

HENRY EDRIS, engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 30, Rock Creek Township, is a native of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, the date of his birth being November 26, 1840. He is a son of Leonard and Elizabeth (Spitler) Edris, who were natives of the State of Pennsylvania and of German descent. His father died when he was an infant, and left him with his mother, with whom he remained until he grew to manhood, and was reared to the avocation of a farmer. He was married January 12, 1863, to Miss Emeline Weber, daughter of Lawrence and Sarah (Moyer) Weber, natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania, of German ancestry. Her father was a son of Peter and Susanna (Raber) Weber, and grandson of Henry Weber, who was a native of Germany, and her mother was a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Edris) Moyer, and a granddaughter of George and Susanna (Pitler) Moyer. Mr. and Mrs. Edris are the parents of eight children—Mary E., wife of John Smeltzer; Edwin L., Henry M., Aaron C., Milton P., Sarah E., Harry E. and Louis E. In 1864 Mr. Edris came with his father-in-law's family to Wells County, Indiana, and settled on the farm on section 30, Rock Creek Town-

ship, where he has since followed agricultural pursuits. But little of his land had been cleared when he settled, but by persevering industry and good management he has cleared and improved his farm, which now consists of 159 acres of well cultivated land. He and his wife are members of the Reformed church. In his political views he is a Democrat.

SYLVESTER LOUNSBERRY, farmer, was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, the date of his birth being March 6, 1844. His parents, Smith and Sallie J. (Tomlinson) Lounsberry, were both natives of Connecticut. They left their native State for Coshocton County, Ohio, removing thence to Grant County, Indiana, and from there came to Wells County, about the year 1840, locating across the river from the present home of our subject, where the father entered 400 acres of land. There the father died in 1857, his widow surviving him until the year 1868. They were the parents of seven children. Sylvester Lounsberry, the subject of this sketch, was reared to the avocation of a farmer in his native township, his father being a farmer by occupation. He was united in marriage in March, 1877, to Miss Mahala C. Matlack, a daughter of William and Catherine Matlack, and to this union have been born two children, named Wells and Ralph. Mr. Lounsberry made his first purchase of land in 1853, and by industry and good management he has acquired 173 acres of choice land. In his political views he affiliates with the Democratic party. He is well known and much respected throughout the county, and has filled several local offices with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In 1879 he was elected county commissioner, assuming the duties of

that office in December of that year, and he has also served as township assessor and land appraiser.

DANIEL G. BRECHBILL, a progressive agriculturist of Rock Creek Township, where he is engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 29, was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, the date of his birth being January 18, 1841, a son of John and Sarah (Garmon) Brechbill. His parents were also natives of the State of Pennsylvania, and were of German descent. When he was four years old his father died. He lived with his mother until sixteen years of age, his youth being spent in working on a farm, beginning to work at an early age. At the age of sixteen years he began learning the carpenter's trade, at which he served an apprenticeship of two years, after which he worked as a farm hand for some time. In 1862 he came to Wells County, Indiana, and located at Murray, where he worked at his trade until August, 1862, when he enlisted in the war of the Rebellion. He was assigned to Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, and participated with his company in many hard-fought battles, including Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Jonesboro. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and participated in the grand review of Sherman's army at Washington, D. C. He served until the close of the war, and received an honorable discharge July 2, 1865, when he returned to Wells County and followed his trade for one year. He was married December 2, 1865, to Miss Maria Raver, a daughter of Joseph Raver, and of the eleven children born to this union eight still survive—Mary C., John H., Frank W., Cora A., Ahmeda M., Della May, Morris E. and Artia

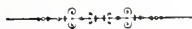
M. Sarah E., Laura E. and an infant unnamed are deceased. Mr. Brechbill lived on rented land for nine years after his marriage, when in 1874 he purchased his present farm, which contains fifty acres of well-improved and highly-cultivated land. In his political views Mr. Brechbill is a Democrat, and has served his township as constable for three years, to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brechbill are members of the Reformed church.

ABRAMHAM MAST, retired farmer, is a native of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, born November 30, 1811, a son of Abraham and Sarah (Yoder) Mast, natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania, the father a son of George Mast, and the mother a daughter of Jacob Yoder, both being of German ancestry. Our subject was reared on a farm in his native county, remaining at home until twenty-two years of age, when he went to work by the month for David Albert, and three years later, in 1836, accompanied Mr. Albert to Montgomery County, Ohio, remaining there a year and a half, when he returned to Pennsylvania to visit his friends. He spent the winter at home, and in the spring of 1840 went again to Ohio, when he found that his friend and employer had died the 24th of October, 1839. He then went to work by the day, making his home with Mrs. Albert, and the following fall took charge of her farm, which he worked on shares three years. December 25, 1842, he was married to Elizabeth Albert, a native of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Houtz) Albert, and granddaughter of Nicholas Albert. In 1853 Mrs. Albert sold her farm, and with Mr. Mast moved to Wells County, Indiana, and



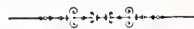
H. Eegeler

bought 240 acres of land in Rock Creek Township, twenty acres of which was partially improved. Mr. Mast bought eighty acres of land in Lancaster Township, although he located on his mother-in-law's farm and carried it on for her, subsequently buying 160 acres of her. She made her home with him as long as she lived. In February, 1883, Mr. Mast retired from the active and arduous labors of farm life, and removed to Bluffton, where he is now living in the enjoyment of a competence gained by years of toil. Mr. and Mrs. Mast have had eight children—David, Uriah, Amanda A. (died, aged one year and eight months), Eliza, Laura, Lucinda, Jennie and Ida. In politics Mr. Mast is a Democrat. He and his wife are members of the Reformed church.



FREDERICK ENGELER, of Vera Cruz, was born in the District of Winterthur, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, January 17, 1831, son of Caspar and Magdalene Engeler. He remained with his parents, attending school, until he was fourteen years of age, then went to learn the wagon-maker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He then worked as journeyman, traveling through different sections of the country, for two years. When he was two years of age his father died. In 1852 he, with a brother and sister, immigrated to the United States, our subject settling in this county, where he worked at his trade for two years. He then went to California, via New York and the Isthmus of Panama, landing at San Francisco. He worked on a farm until fall, then engaged in mining, which he followed successfully until October, 1858, when he returned to this county and engaged in the mercantile trade at Vera Cruz. This

occupation he continued three years; then engaged in the woolen business for a time, and then operated a flouring mill until 1883. Since that time he has been engaged in farming in connection with his other business. He owns 200 acres of improved land, in a good state of cultivation. He was married in April, 1859, to Miss Rose Ann Biverstein, born in Wayne County, Ohio, and daughter of Benedict and Rosanna Biverstein, natives of Switzerland. To this union eleven children were born, nine of whom are living—Frederick, Mary E., wife of Martin Vitz, of St. Paul, Minnesota, Albert, Frank F., Emma, Charles, William, Maggie, Edward, Henry and Tillie. May 13, 1859, Mr. Engeler was appointed postmaster, under President Buchanan's administration, an office he held two years. He was elected and then commissioned a justice of the peace April 12, 1860, for four years, by Ashbel P. Willard, Governor; was re-elected in 1864 and commissioned by Governor O. P. Morton, April 17, 1864. In 1880 was again elected, and is the present incumbent. After the expiration of his first service he was appointed notary public, and held the office until 1880. Politically he is a Democrat. Himself and wife are members of the Reformed church in the United States.



DAVID H. SWAIM, senior member of the law firm of Swaim & Swaim, of Bluffton, Indiana, and son of Colonel William and Hannah (Toy) Swain, was born in Ossian, Indiana, September 17, 1858. After ten years spent on a farm, his mother desiring to give her children better educational privileges, moved to Ossian, and here he attended the graded schools until 1879, with the exception of one term spent at Valparaiso, Indiana. He was subsequently employed

for two years in the graded schools at Ossian, first as a subordinate teacher, and afterward as principal. In the fall of 1882 he began a course of study in the law department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor which he completed, and graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in the spring of 1884. He was admitted to the bar at Bluffton, Indiana, in 1884, where he has since been engaged in the practice of law. September 16, 1885, he was married to Miss E. May Gorrell, daughter of James and Mary Ann Gorrell, of Ossian, Indiana. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bluffton.

AMOS QUICK, an enterprising and progressive agriculturist of Rock Creek Township, where he is engaged in farming and stock-raising, was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, August 7, 1835, a son of James and Jane (Thurston) Quick. When he was two years old his mother died, after which his father came with his family to Indiana and settled in Franklin County, where he resided eight years, removing thence to Madison County. Amos remained with his father until 1852, when he came to Wells County with his brother, who settled in Lancaster Township. He made his home with his brother until reaching his majority, when he purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land on section 36 of Rock Creek Township, which he at once began clearing and improving. February 13, 1859, he was married to Miss Rachel E. Bay, a native of Wells County, and a daughter of William and Rebecca (Miller) Bay, who were pioneers of this county, coming here from Ohio in an early day. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Quick, named

James W. and John H. Mr. Quick has converted his land into a well improved and highly cultivated farm, and since 1856 has devoted his entire attention to agricultural pursuits. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. Politically he casts his suffrage with the Republican party.

DAVID FRITZ, one of the self-made men of Wells County, engaged in farming and blacksmithing in Rock Creek Township, is a native of Germany, born in Rettersburg, Oberamt, Waiblinger, Konigreich, Wurtemberg, January 19, 1818, the eldest son and second child of George and Catharine (Greiner) Fritz. Our subject was reared on his father's farm until fifteen years of age, when he began learning the blacksmith's trade, and after serving an apprenticeship of two years he worked as a journeyman blacksmith in various places in his native land until he immigrated to America. He left Amsterdam for the United States April 22, 1848, and landed at New York June 12 following. He immediately went to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where he was variously employed for one year, after which he worked at his trade in that city for five years. March 26, 1850, he was married to Miss Lydia Freeze, a daughter of Peter Freeze, of Berks County, Pennsylvania. To this union nine children were born—John, Cordelia, wife of Thomas White, of Bluffton; Daniel, deceased; Lovina; Eliza, wife of William Wysong; David; Mary, wife of Charles Metz; Henry J. and Charles F. In 1854 Mr. Fritz removed from Pennsylvania to Fairfield County with his family, which then consisted of his wife and two children. He was engaged in blacksmithing at Stouts-ville, Fairfield County, when he came to In-

diana, and November 7, 1858, he purchased eighty acres of unimproved land where he now resides. By hard work and perseverance he cleared his land and converted it into a good farm, and was successful in his agricultural pursuits. He erected a blacksmith shop on his land, and has since followed blacksmithing in connection with his farming operations. Besides his home farm he owns a tract of seventy-six acres in Union Township, which he sold in 1887. Mr. Fritz was bereaved by the death of his wife June 30, 1886. She was a consistent member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Fritz is also a worthy and active member of the same church, and is a much respected citizen of Rock Creek Township, having by his fair and honorable dealings gained the confidence and esteem of all who know him. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party.

PETER SOUERWINE, farmer and stock-raiser, Rock Creek Township, is a native of Germany, born February 22, 1818, a son of Louis and Elizabeth Souerwine. When he was ten years old he immigrated with his parents, and after a voyage of seventy days landed at Baltimore, Maryland. The family first settled in Adams County, Pennsylvania, remaining there until 1838, when they removed to Wayne County, Indiana, where the mother died June 11 of the same year. Peter and his father then came to Wells County and entered 200 acres of Government land on section 36 of Rock Creek Township. They then returned to their home in Wayne County, where they resided until 1843, when they returned to Wells County and built a cabin on their land. Peter Souerwine was married March 26, 1843, to Miss Christena Hieger, a daughter of Louis Hieger, who

came from Germany to America several years after our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Souerwine were born six children—Louisa, wife of Frank Adams, of Rock Creek Township; Louis and Peter, living on a part of the old homestead, and three who died in infancy unnamed. Mr. Souerwine has cleared and improved his land and added to it until he now has 360 acres of well cultivated land. He and his wife are members of the old school Lutheran church. In politics he is a Democrat.

AMOS ROWE, superintendent of the Wells County Infirmary, is a native of Ohio, born in Pickaway County February 14, 1830, a son of David and Elizabeth (Bortges) Rowe, and grandson of Peter Rowe, a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. His mother died when he was but five weeks old, and he was reared by his grandfather Rowe. When he was eighteen years of age his grandfather died, and he then took charge of the homestead, remaining with his grandmother until 1864, when he moved to Wells County, Indiana, and bought forty acres of improved land in Harrison Township, which he afterward sold and bought eighty acres on section 14 of the same township, where he lived five years, and then for three years lived on a farm on section 15, and in 1872 he was appointed superintendent of the county infirmary, holding the position four years. He then lived one year on the Chalfant farm, and two years on his farm of forty acres, and in 1879 was again appointed superintendent of the infirmary, and is still filling that position satisfactorily. Mr. Rowe also served as constable in his native county. He was married December 11, 1855, to Sarah Clark, a native of Pickaway County, Ohio,

daughter of James A. and Susan (Bort) Clark, of German and English descent. Mr. and Mrs. Rowe have had eleven children, but six of whom are living—David, Mary, wife of Lewis B. Hale; James A., Harriet E., Benjamin F. and Leona. The deceased are—Lewis E., Margaret M., Charles, Moses M. and Amos T. In politics Mr. Rowe affiliates with the Democratic party. He and his wife are members of the Christian church.

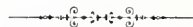
GEORGE R. HUFFMAN, who has been identified with the interests of Wells County for many years, is engaged in farming on section 2, Jackson Township, where he is numbered among the most respected citizens. Mr. Huffman was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, the date of his birth being March 7, 1842, and is a son of Henry and Catharine Huffman, who were early pioneers of the county. He was reared in Jackson Township and has always made it his home. He remained on the home farm until one year after his marriage. March 6, 1863, he married Miss Elsie Ann Griffith, a native of Wells County, Indiana, and a daughter of Samuel Griffith. Both of her parents are deceased, her mother having died when she was a child, and her father about the year 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are the parents of four living children—Samuel, William Allison, Jonas Goode and Delma Allison. One son, Theodore, is deceased. In 1864 Mr. Huffman enlisted in the late war, and was assigned to Company C, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, going first to Indianapolis. From there he went to Dalton, Georgia, thence to Pittsburg. He subsequently went to Beaufort, North Carolina, and from there went to Kingston, where he was engaged with his regiment. They joined Sherman's

army at Goldsborough, and marched through the Carolinas and participated in the grand review of Sherman's army at Washington, D. C., at the close of the war. Mr. Huffman was discharged at Indianapolis after the expiration of a furlough which he had passed at his home. Before enlisting in the late war Mr. Huffman had lived one year on rented land. After the war he bought a piece of land, which he sold soon after, and bought and sold another piece of land, when, in 1878, he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, of which seventy-two acres have been cleared and brought under cultivation. In politics Mr. Huffman affiliates with the Democratic party, but in local elections votes independent of party ties. In his religious faith he is a Dunkard.

ANTHONY SUNIER, an active and enterprising citizen, and a prominent business man of Wells County, Indiana, is a native of Switzerland, born in Canton Berne, in April, 1826, a son of Peter F. and Lydia Sunier, who were natives of the same canton. The mother of our subject died when he was two years old, and his father subsequently married again, and was the father of six children. In 1837 he immigrated to America with his family, landing at New York after a voyage of thirty-seven days. The family lived three years in Wayne County, Ohio; in 1840 came to Indiana, in which State the father entered 300 acres of Government land which was heavily covered with timber. The father cleared and improved this land, and followed farming there until 1860, when he removed to Newville, Indiana, where he died in 1862. Anthony Sunier, the subject of this sketch, was fifteen years of age when he came to Adams County, and

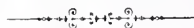
there he grew to manhood, assisting his father clear and improve his farm. His education was obtained mainly by his own exertions after reaching manhood. He remained with his father until his marriage June 7, 1849, to Miss Emily Henny, a daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann (Merillat) Henny, who came from Canton Berne, Switzerland, in 1844, and settled in Wells County, Indiana, in July of that year, Mr. Henny purchasing an unimproved farm in Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Sunier are the parents of four children—Aldine, wife of Christian Bear; Marie, wife of Adolph Hofer; Corinne, wife of James Darley, and Albert E. After his marriage Mr. Sunier settled on a farm in Harrison Township, and later purchased forty acres of heavily timbered land in French Township, Adams County, to which he removed. After residing there thirteen months, clearing fifteen acres, he sold his land in French Township at an advance on the purchase price. He then removed to Wells County and bought eighty acres in Harrison Township, again settling in a dense wilderness, where he resided until 1857, and during his residence on this land cleared fifteen acres. He then went to Minnesota, purchasing a tract of land, and for the fourth time settled in the dense wilderness, and began making a new farm. After residing there three years he sold his land to good advantage and returned to Wells County, and engaged in the grocery business at Vera Cruz one year, after which he followed general mercantile pursuits for fourteen years. He again returned to farming and followed agricultural pursuits five years, when he removed to Bluffton and engaged in the dry goods business with B. F. Wyley for three years, when they sold out their business. Mr. Sunier again engaged in the dry goods business, which he followed two years, and during this time also managed

his farm, located one mile south of Bluffton, where he has 191 acres of choice land. In 1883 he engaged in the boot and shoe business in company with William Bear, and in the fall of 1886 they added a stock of clothing to the business, and are still doing an extensive trade. Mr. Sunier is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 142, A. F. & A. M., and is also a member of the Odd Fellows order. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party. He and his wife attend the German Reformed church.



THAM WEST, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Greenup County, Kentucky, May 4, 1824, son of William and Sarah (Arthur) West. William West was born, reared and married in Virginia. His wife was also born and reared in that State. Several years after their marriage they removed to Kentucky with their family, which then consisted of three children. Their goods were packed on horses, the road across the mountains being impassable for any other mode of conveyance. When they arrived in Greenup County they found a rough broken country, and sparsely settled. They lived in Kentucky until 1831, then removed to Preble County, Ohio, and in 1840 they packed their household goods and came by team to Indiana, settling on seventy-seven acres of land William had purchased before coming. There was no clearing on the place, which was covered with a heavy growth of timber. The family lived in a house adjoining the farm while Mr. West and his boys cleared a place and put up a log cabin. Game was in great abundance, but William was not much of a hunter and did not often disturb the deer and wild turkeys that roamed over the country at will.

Isham, our subject, was very fond of the "sport," and killed a great many deer and other game. They brought some sheep from Ohio, and made a pen for them quite near the house; but even that did not protect them from the wolves. In September of the next year the mother died, and was buried in the Twibell cemetery in Blackford County. The father afterward removed with his son to Senfle Creek, where the latter had bought a place, and there he remained until his death, which occurred in June, 1850. Our subject was in his seventeenth year when the family came to Wells County, and he has resided here ever since. He has 160 acres of land, with 120 acres of clearing. He was married in April, 1846, to Miss Margaret Jarrett, a native of Wayne County, this State, and daughter of Jonas Jarrett, who settled in Wells County as early as 1838. Of their nine children, five are living—William, now serving as township trustee; Sarah, wife of Christopher Starr; Mary Catherine, wife of Lemuel Bales, who is now deceased; James and Joseph. The deceased are—Bentley, Johnny, Frances Emily, and an infant unnamed. Mr. West is not a politician, and has never sought office, although he served one term as supervisor. Mrs. West is a member of the Christian church.



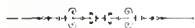
JACOB SPEECE, an old settler and a prominent farmer of Jackson Township, Wells County, is a native of Ohio, born in Champaign County, June 8, 1820, a son of Peter and Sarah (Princehaus) Speece. They were natives of Virginia, and of German descent, their parents coming from Germany in an early day. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving seven years

in that struggle for independence. The parents of our subject emigrated to Ohio among the early settlers. They reared a large family to maturity. Peter Speece grew to manhood in Virginia, and in August, 1813, went to Ohio with his family. They resided in Champaign County until 1861, when they came to Wells County, Indiana, and bought a farm in Chester Township, on which the parents lived until their death. Both were members of the United Brethren church, and were much respected by all who knew them. Peter Speece died March 1, 1871, aged eighty-four years and five months, and his wife died November 13, 1867, aged seventy-nine years. Jacob, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on his father's farm. He received but a limited education, but by private reading he has fitted himself to perform the duties he is called upon to do. He was married in his native county, July 4, 1841, to Miss Rebecca McIntyre, who was also born in Champaign County, Ohio, the date of her birth being May 1, 1819. Her parents were natives of Virginia, and in an early day settled in Champaign County, Ohio, living there until their death. They were the parents of nine children, three sons and six daughters. The father of Mrs. Speece served as a soldier during the war of 1812. To Mr. and Mrs. Speece were born nine children—Mary J. (deceased), Sarah C., Thomas McIntyre, Peter, Nancy E., Jacob F., William, Rebecca Ann, and Henrietta (deceased). They also reared Isaac Spaulding from the age of seven days, at which time his mother, Mary Jane (Speece) Spaulding, died. Mr. Jacob Speece followed farming in Ohio until 1847, when, in September of that year, he came to Wells County, Indiana, and settled in Jackson Township, on land for which he had traded eighty acres before coming here. He has since made his



Hiram Fawkesburg

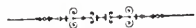
home on the land on which he first settled, to which he has added until his farm now contains 200 acres of choice land. He made the journey from Ohio by team, his cash capital at that time being \$50, and still owed money on his land. He settled in a dense woods, where he built his pioneer cabin and began clearing his land of the heavy timber, and by hard work and perseverance he has made for his family a comfortable home. His rude log cabin has been replaced by his fine, substantial residence, which is surrounded with shade and ornamental trees. Mr. Speece is at present principally engaged in stock-raising, in which he is meeting with good success, and is classed among the well-to-do citizens of the county.



HIRAM TEWKSBURY, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Summit County, Ohio, December 16, 1840, son of Nathaniel and Nancy Tewksbury, natives of Sandwich, New Hampshire, where the family had lived for many generations. John Tewksbury, the first of the family in this country, came to America in the Mayflower, landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620. Some twenty-five years later he left Plymouth for Sandwich, New Hampshire, which has since been the family home, for a period of nearly two and a half centuries. Nathaniel Tewksbury was married in New Hampshire to Miss Nancy Tewksbury, February 24, 1825, and in 1836 they first moved to Summit County, Ohio, where the parents of Mrs. Tewksbury had settled about ten years previous. In 1841 they removed by wagon and ox team to Indiana, leaving Ohio on the 15th of February. They camped out at night, wherever they happened to be, often having to enter their way through the woods, and to ford streams

that would almost float their wagon. They arrived in Blackford County the second day of April, and lived there in a small cabin while Nathaniel came to Wells County and made a clearing, using the logs cut down to erect his log house. In December it was ready for occupancy, and he brought his family to the new home. His land consisted of eighty acres that he had entered from the Government five years before leaving Ohio, and is the land upon which his son Hiram now resides. There was no road near the land; nothing but an Indian trail, which ran from the Godfrey Reserve to within half a mile of his farm, afforded means of communication. The principal occupants of the surrounding country were deer, bears, wolves and other wild animals. During the first winter there was a heavy fall of snow, and the wild turkeys would come in droves clear to the house, and some ten or fifteen were caught in one day by Mr. Tewksbury in traps. When he first came he went to Muncie for his milling, and afterward went to Camden, where there was a corn crusher. A few years later a good mill was put up on the Salamonie River. They hauled their first wheat to Fort Wayne, usually taking about a week for a trip, then received 30 to 50 cents a bushel for it. They would haul back salt at \$4 or \$5 a barrel. He came here with his household goods, an ox team, one cow, and had \$1.50 in cash. Here he and his wife reared their family, and lived to see vast inroads made into the dense forests, railroads, manufactories and the appearance of the whole country changed. Nathaniel Tewksbury was not fond of hunting, and preferred to take his dog and drive the deer from the field rather than shoot them. He was among the first to give attention to stock-raising, and was always interested in this branch of industry. He died February 11, 1878, his wife having died

March 17, 1877. Both are buried in Montpelier cemetery. Hiram was reared amid the scenes of pioneer life, and he has always lived on the old homestead. He is probably the largest individual stock-raiser in Wells County. He has been twice married. He was first married in April, 1863, to Miss Mary Jane Harris, a native of Jay County, Indiana, and daughter of David and Eliza (Caldwell) Harris. She died September 10, 1877. By this marriage were two children—John M. and Elmer. Mr. Tewksbury was married to his present wife January 22, 1880. She was formerly Miss Cecelia Nowlin, a native of Rochester, New York, and daughter of Addison and Mary (McConaghy) Nowlin. They are the parents of two children—Eva and Joy. Mr. Tewksbury owns 1,078 acres of land in Wells, Blackford and Pulaski counties, Indiana, and Grand Traverse, Michigan. He was engaged in the hardware business with William and John Clond, at Montpelier, from 1875 to 1877, and in the general mercantile business, in the firm of J. T. Hess & Co., during 1881-'82-'83. He has been a life-long Republican, as was his father after the organization of that party; previous to that time he was a Whig. Mr. Tewksbury was the Republican and people's candidate for recorder at the last election.



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM SWAIM, second son of James and Elizabeth (Turner) Swaim, was born March 4, 1819, at Jacobstown, Burlington County, New Jersey. His grandfather, William Turner, entered the Revolutionary war when but a boy, and served faithfully through the entire war. When young William attained the age of seven years his father died, leaving a widow and four children beside himself—

Martin, Tanton, Aelsah and Hannah. After his father's death William was sent to a farm, where he remained until he was sixteen. He was then apprenticed to learn blacksmithing until twenty-one years of age. His educational advantages were very meager, but by earnest application and zealous effort he succeeded in gaining a great store of useful knowledge at odd times and after working hours. After four years spent as a laborer in the shop, he, with his brother Tanton, formed a partnership and engaged in the manufacture of carriages at Pemberton, New Jersey. At Wrightstown, New Jersey, December 28, 1844, he was married to Hannah Toy, daughter of Thomas and Rachel Toy. Five children were born to them—James, November 28, 1845; Jennie Leona, September 23, 1850; Charles Edgar, June 30, 1856; David Hathaway, September 17, 1858, and William Thomas Toy, April 1, 1861, all of whom are living except Charles Edgar, who died when but nine months old. His son James enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, in the fall of 1861, and served his country faithfully until the close of the war, and was mustered out with the regiment, February 4, 1866, at Brownsville, Texas, reaching home the 22d of February, the same year. In 1846 Colonel Swaim moved West and located at Troy, Ohio, where he with his brother Tanton engaged in the manufacture of plows. In 1857, under enthusiasm of Western emigration, he made a trip to Kansas with a view to making it his home, but owing to the border troubles returned to Indiana and located on a farm near Ossian, Wells County, where he remained until the breaking out of the late civil war in 1861. He was brave, noble and kind hearted, ready to aid the needy and lift up the fallen. He loved his family dearly, and home was very precious to him, but when the war broke out

he felt it to be his duty to serve his country, which he did so faithfully until his death. He counseled his wife about his affairs, and when he was in the war she acted her part as a soldier's wife should while the Nation was struggling for liberty. Colonel Swain raised a company of volunteers at Ossian, Murray and Bluffton, which was organized September 16, 1861, as Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with him as Captain. February 16, 1862, he was promoted Major, and June 15 following was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. His enthusiasm and patriotism drew to him a splendid company of men who enlisted because they loved their country and despised traitors. He was with his regiment at all times ready for duty, being in the battles of New Madrid, Riddle's Point, Yazoo Pass, White River, Grand Prairie, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Raymond and Champion Hills. To give his views of the general situation while in the service, and to present some idea of his feelings, we quote from various letters which he wrote home.

To his wife:

"HELENA, ARKANSAS,

"February 24, 1862.

* * * "I do not think things look so dark at this time. As far as I can judge, matters look very favorable to our side. Our forces are moving steadily forward toward Vicksburg at every available point, and sooner or later it must be ours. The rebels at this time, throughout the whole South, are giving back, and our army is on the advance toward their center. War is always slow and must be, to be sure. The Revolutionary war lasted seven years, but I have no idea that this will last half that time, but if it does, I say fight it out, as this is the great struggle between freedom and slavery. If we fail Liberty will take her everlasting flight from

this part of the world, and leave us in turmoil and war that will not end in our days nor those of our children. I say fight them till death, or conquer. I am well aware that our progress is held back by traitors, both in the army and out of it, but they must give back to popular opinion, and to the force of 500,000 men with guns in their hands, determined that traitors shall not rule this country which was intended for freemen. Our cause is just, and we have the sympathy of the whole Christian world on our side, and if the Almighty ever takes sides in war, He certainly is on our side. With such support as this how can it be possible for us to fail? I am tired of war, and a soldier's life does not suit me, as I have often told you, and no man would return home to his family more pleased than I would if the war was honorably settled; but as an honorable man I cannot leave the service at this time, or at any other while my services are useful to my country."

* * *

To his daughter Jennie:

"RIDDLE'S POINT, April 4, 1862.

* * * "I cannot tell you how long a time it will be before I return home. I may never return. If I do not, recollect that your father was true to the cause of freedom, and that he died in defense of your country. I never expect to return home to stay until the war is over, unless my health fails me (which I hope it will not). When you hear that the war is at an end, then look for me—and not until then." * * *

To his wife:

"RIDDLE'S POINT, April 9, 1862.

* * * "I think from what I can learn that Island No. 10 has fallen into our hands. The next place will be Fort Pillow, about sixty miles below; when that is taken, then Memphis. I begin to think if our forces meet with good success, as they have of late,

the war must soon end—but one defeat on the Potomac might lengthen it for another year. There are two very important battles yet to gain—one at Richmond, and the other at Corinth, Mississippi.” * * *

To his wife:

“CAMP NEAR HELENA, ARKANSAS,

“September 9, 1862.

* * * “I must confess the war clouds look very dark; we appear to meet with defeat on every side. I think we have under-estimated both their strength and courage, and we have been fighting them too much as though we were afraid of hurting them. Our commanders will begin to see that they will have to handle them without gloves. If Congress had declared a general emancipation of all the slaves, and had gone at them right, the war would have been over before this, but they delayed for fear of offending some few slave-holders in Kentucky and elsewhere.”

* * *

To his wife:

“CAMP WILMINGTON,

“September 23, 1862.

* * * “I sometimes think it will have to be a war of extermination before it can be ended; it is a desperate war, and nothing but desperate means will in all probability terminate it. At this time nine-tenths of the army are for the immediate emancipation of the slaves, believing that it is the only thing that will save the Government from ruin. It must be done and will be, and the sooner the President and all others in command consent to it, just that much sooner will this war end.” * * *

To M. Platt, New Jersey:

“CAMP, NEAR HELENA, ARKANSAS,

“September 29, 1862.

* * * “We have received the President’s proclamation, and most all are highly pleased with it. It is the only thing that

will bring them to terms. The slavery question has been the whole cause of this rebellion, and nothing but the wiping out of slavery will ever settle the question permanently. Mark my words, if it is ever settled any other way, we will have the thing to settle in a few years by another war of a more bloody character than the present one.” * * *

To his wife:

“HELENA, ARKANSAS, *February 1, 1863.*

* * * “The talk is that I will have to be Colonel if he (Colonel Cameron) is promoted to Brigadier-General. God knows that I do not want the place—would you take it if you were in my place—with all the responsibilities attached to it? Sometimes I think I could fill the place with honor to my country and myself; at other times I cannot have the first idea of accepting such a position.” * * *

To his wife:

“IN CAMP NEAR HELENA, ARKANSAS,

“February 6, 1863.

* * * “We have been very busy today getting up a memorial to the Indiana Legislature, in which we set forth our rights as soldiers and citizens, and ask of them to do nothing to stop the vigorous prosecution of this war, but to urge it forward with all the energy of a patriotic people. We insist that no terms of peace be agreed to that will not be honorable and lasting, and if any other terms are agreed to, we give them to understand that we shall look upon the movers of such terms with scorn and contempt. The document was signed by every officer and nearly every man in the regiment. All Indiana regiments are moving in this matter. We wish our friends to understand that we do not endorse the proceedings of Northern traitors any more than Southern rebels—of the two the Northern wretches are the worst. We think at this time we have a fair prospect

of victory and the final overthrow of that monster, slavery, which has cost us so many lives and so much trouble. Every sensible man and well wisher of his country now admits that it must be destroyed to insure a lasting peace." * * *

To his wife:

"MILLIKEN'S BEND, April 15, 1863.

* * * "I feel that we are in the most righteous war that ever anybody was in, and if we fall, we fall in a good cause. If we get into a fight I expect to do my duty as an officer, and have no stain upon my character nor disgrace upon you or my children. I wish you to act the part of a soldier's wife; take things as they come and be ready for the worst." * * * * *

At the battle of Champion Hills, Mississippi, May 16, 1863, whilst gallantly and bravely leading his regiment, Colonel Swain was mortally wounded just as the shout of victory went up from the Union side. He died from the effects of said wound June 17, 1863, while on board a steamboat on his way home, North. His remains were buried at Ossian cemetery, and at the head of his grave stands a beautiful and handsome monument to his memory, erected by the officers of his regiment as a testimonial of the high appreciation in which he was held by those who had shared the dangers of camp, field and battle with him. His career was honorable, brave and true. The following letter from Colonel Cameron, with the resolutions from the officers of the regiment, was sent to Mrs. Colonel Swain:

"CAMP THIRTY-FOURTH INDIANA,

"NEAR VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI,

"July 2, 1863.

"MRS. SWAIN,

"Dear Madam:—

"You may be assured we were most deeply pained to learn of the death of our esteemed

friend, your husband, on the 30th ult., and paused amid the clamor and noise of war to reflect upon our deep loss. He was a true friend, a safe counselor, a generous, noble-hearted man. The more I knew of him the more I loved him, and he has left a place among us which we cannot fill. I deeply sympathize with you in your great loss, but I know our heavenly Father will be your friend and protector. Enclosed I send you a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of our officers; and the sentiment which is there expressed is endorsed by all the men. James is well and doing well as usual.

"I am truly your obedient servant,

"R. A. CAMERON."

At a meeting of the officers of the Thirty-fourth Indiana, June 30, 1863, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, expressive of their feelings in relation to the death Lieutenant-Colonel William Swain, who died from the effects of a wound while commanding the regiment in the battle of Champion Hills:

"WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God in his seemingly severe, though just providence, to remove from our midst by death, our beloved soldier and companion in arms, Lieutenant-Colonel Swain;

"Resolved, That in his death the regiment has suffered the irreparable loss of a brave, efficient and faithful officer; the country a high-minded, unwavering patriot; the cause of liberty a mighty, uncompromising champion, and society a jewel of sterling worth, whose unswerving integrity and dauntless courage stood out boldly as an example worthy of imitation;

"Resolved, That in this affliction we sympathize with the bereaved widow, orphan children and friends, and with them drop a tear of love and sorrow over a patriot's grave;

"Resolved, That while we mourn his un-

timely death, we here pledge anew our fidelity to our bleeding country, and swear eternal vengeance against the infernal dogma of secession and all its upholders;

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased.

"R. A. CAMERON,

"Colonel Thirty-fourth Indiana.

"I. B. RUSN,

"Second Lieutenant, Acting Adjutant."

WILLIAM MCINTIRE, farmer, section 25, Jackson Township, is a native of Virginia, born in Frederick County, October 14, 1813, a son of Charles and Catherine (Dick) McIntire, who were natives of the same State, and of Irish descent. The paternal grandfather of our subject came from Ireland, and was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. He was a great hunter, and followed hunting for the army. Charles McIntire was a soldier in the war of 1812, returning from the service to his home on the day of our subject's birth. The parents lived in Frederick County, in their native State, until their death. They had a family of eleven children, of whom five sons and four daughters grew to maturity. The mother was a Presbyterian in her religious belief. The father being a farmer, William, our subject, was reared to the same avocation, which he has followed principally through life. He grew to manhood in his native county, receiving such educational advantages as the common schools of that early day afforded. He was married in 1838 to Miss Mary Fearnow, who was born April 13, 1818, in Morgan County, Virginia, her parents being natives of the same county. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. McIntire only two are living—Richard and Emily.

Emily married Robert A. Kilander, March 25, 1882, and they have three children—Charles Edward, Mary Olive and William Perry. Robert A. Kilander is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Jackson Township, March 23, 1861, a son of Perry Kilander. In 1868 Mr. McIntire came to Indiana in company with his brother Harrison, they buying a farm in Jackson Township, Wells County, from Isaac Bonham, an old settler. Mr. McIntire and his son-in-law subsequently purchased his brother's interest in the farm, which they still own and occupy, and are engaged in general farming. The farm now contains 170 acres of improved land, and is under good cultivation.

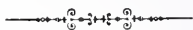
JOHN LEE, an early settler of Wells County, engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 25, Rock Creek Township, is a native of Indiana, born in Wayne County, February 6, 1822, a son of Samuel and Ruth (Hinshaw) Lee. His father was born in Tennessee, a son of John Lee, who was a native of North Carolina and of Irish descent. The mother of our subject was also a native of Tennessee, and was a daughter of William and Margaret Hinshaw, who were born in the same State. They were married in their native State, and to them were born five children, all of whom grew to maturity and were married. Only two are now living. In the fall of 1821 the parents immigrated to Wayne County, Indiana, where they settled in Perry Township. The father died in Wayne County, and the mother subsequently married Mordecai Ellis, and to this union were born two children. The mother is now deceased, her death taking place on the old homestead in Wayne County. John Lee, the subject of this sketch, lived

with his mother until his marriage, being reared on the farm in Wayne County, and receiving his education in the subscription schools of his neighborhood. He was united in marriage December 15, 1841, to Miss Esther Ruth, a native of North Carolina, but was brought by her parents, Jeremiah and Fanny (Minburn) Ruth, to Wayne County, Indiana, when a child. To this union were born four children—Mary R. (deceased), Isaac R., Simon (deceased), and James A. After his marriage Mr. Lee settled on a farm in Randolph County, he having purchased a tract of heavily-covered timber land there, and there he cleared forty-five acres. His wife died June 8, 1850, and April 13, 1851, he was again married to Miss Sophia Gallian, who was born in Tennessee, a daughter of Thomas and Tabitha (Warren) Gallian, who came to Wayne County, Indiana, in an early day. Mr. Lee was a second time bereaved by the death of his wife, which occurred May 14, 1865. By his second marriage he had four children—Hannah E., wife of B. Hall, of Wells County; Elizabeth V.; Rachel O., wife of M. J. Park, of Rock Creek Township, Wells County, and Nancy J. In the fall of 1853 Mr. Lee sold his farm in Randolph County, when he came to Wells County and purchased 160 acres of wild land heavily covered with timber, located on section 25, Rock Creek Township, where he has since made his home, a period of thirty-four years, and by persevering industry and toil he soon had his land cleared and under fine cultivation, and it is now one of the best farms in his neighborhood. He is numbered among the self-made men of the county, having by his own efforts acquired his present fine property, and by his honorable dealings and strict integrity he has gained the respect of the entire community. In religious faith he is a Quaker, and worships at the

Christian church of Bluffton. In politics he was formerly an old line Whig, but on the organization of the Republican party he voted that ticket until 1886, when he cast his suffrage with the Prohibition party.

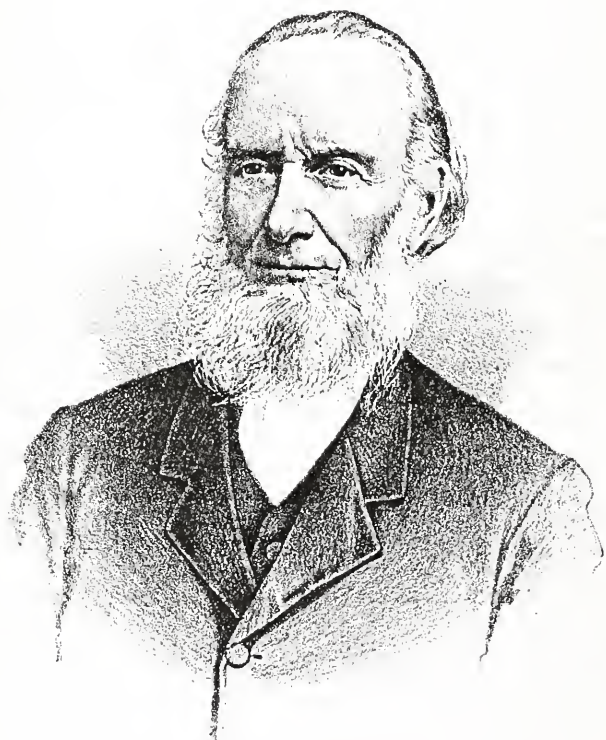
ALBERT FALK, deceased, was born in Prussia, Germany, in the year 1806, a son of Johannes Falk. He was reared in his native country to the avocation of a weaver, remaining with his parents until he came to America. He left his native country in the spring of 1834, and after a voyage of fifty-two days landed at Baltimore, Maryland. He went directly to Richmond County, Ohio, and purchased eighty acres of land and engaged in farming. He was married in the fall of 1834 to Miss Catherine Pfaff, who was a native of the same place as her subject, coming to America in 1834. In 1849 they left Richland County for Indiana, where Mr. Falk purchased 160 acres of heavily timbered land in Wells County, of which only a few acres were partially improved. Shortly afterward he bought 100 acres, and later bought fifty acres more in the same township. He cleared and improved his land, and here he followed farming until his death, and by hard work, frugality and persevering energy he accumulated a large property, and by his fair and honorable dealings he gained the confidence and respect of all who knew him. He died April 28, 1879. His wife died March 6, 1858. They were the parents of nine children—Jacob, Joseph, Catherine (wife of John Davis), Susan (died, aged twenty-four years), Mary (wife of John M. Campbell, of Sedgewick County, Kansas), John, William (living in Kansas), Peter and Henry. Their oldest son, Jacob Falk, who is one of the enterpris-

ing and progressive farmers of Rock Creek Township, is a native of Richland County, Ohio, the date of his birth being June 26, 1835. He lived on the home farm in Richland County until fourteen years of age, when he accompanied his parents to Wells County, Indiana. He lived with his parents until his marriage, in March, 1862, to Miss Rachel Jones, who was born in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, her father, Misheck Jones, being also born in the State of Indiana. Eight children have been born to this union, of whom one son, Isaac, died at the age of fourteen years. Those living are—Mary, wife of Edward Brown, of Fort Wayne; Eli, Jonathan, William, Clara, Jacob and Benjamin. In 1857 Jacob Falk purchased eighty acres of unimproved land on section 26, Rock Creek Township, which he began clearing and making improvements on the place. After his marriage he settled on his land where he has since made his home, where he has 110 acres of highly cultivated land, and his improvements are among the best in the county. In his political views he affiliates with the Democratic party.



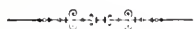
JACOB SHIVELY, one of the progressive farmers of Rock Creek Township, was born in Stark County, Ohio, April 1, 1813, a son of Ulerich and Christine (Shidler) Shively, both of whom were natives of the State of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. The mother was a daughter of Henry Shidler, a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in Ohio in an early day. The father being a farmer, Jacob was reared to the same avocation. In his youth he received a limited education, attending the rude log cabin subscription schools, with their puncheon seats and floor, stick and clay chimney and greased

paper lights. He remained under the home roof until reaching his majority, and in 1825 removed with his mother's family, his father being deceased, to Preble County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was married in Preble County January 22, 1830, to Rebecca Brower, who was born in Preble County, and of German descent, a daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth Brower. To this union were born four children—Christine, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Mishler; Joseph, deceased; and Mariah, wife of Frederick Sheets. Mrs. Shively died June 15, 1841, and in April, 1843, Mr. Shively married Rebecca Heren, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Alexander and Matthew Heren, who were of Irish ancestry, and of the ten children born to them eight still survive—Henry, George, Martha (wife of August Mitchell), Jacob, Rebecca (wife of Henry Mast), Mary, Lydia and Flora. Two children died in infancy. Mr. Shively was again bereaved by the death of his wife in 1860. She was a member of the German Baptist church. He was again united in marriage April 12, 1884, to Mrs. Susan (Harris) Gusman, who was also a native of Ohio. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Shively, in his religious faith, is a German Baptist. Mr. Shively came to the State of Indiana in 1839 and settled in Huntington County, where he purchased 103 acres of unimproved land. He cleared and improved this land, on which he resided until March 29, 1850, when he sold it and purchased 160 acres of partially-improved land in Rock Creek Township, Wells County. He has added to this tract of land until he now owns 433 acres, located on sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Rock Creek Township, all of which is now well improved and under fine cultivation. Mr. Shively is one of the self-made men of the county, he



Jacob Shivehy sen

having commenced life on his own account with limited means, and by persevering industry and good management has accumulated his present fine property, and surrounded himself and family with all the necessary comforts of life. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party. While living in Huntington County Mr. Shively was elected magistrate, and after serving as such for a short time, resigned that office. He has served as township trustee for many years, and by his honorable and upright dealings gained the confidence and respect of all who know him.



RANSOM ALLEN, of Jefferson Township, engaged in farming and dealing in agricultural implements, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, March 15, 1842. His parents, Hezekiah and Sarah (Rinear) Allen, were natives of Montgomery County, New York, and Columbiana County, Ohio, respectively. They came to Wells County, Indiana, with their family November 17, 1847, and here our subject was reared on the home farm, his father being a farmer by occupation, and received his education in the schools of his district. His boyhood days were spent in assisting his father clear away the heavy forest and in tilling the soil. August 5, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Thirteenth Indiana Infantry, under Captain (afterward Colonel) Hurd, and served during the entire war, re-enlisting in the veteran service January 6, 1864. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Claysville, La Vergne, Stone River, Chickamauga, Wilson's Creek, Pulaski, Triune, Middleton, Liberty Gap, Tallahoma, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Franklin and Nashville, besides many skirmishes, and was with Sher-

man on his Atlanta campaign of 120 days of constant skirmishing and fighting, taking part in every battle in which his regiment was engaged during his four years and four months service. At the battle of Shiloh, April 7, 1862, he was wounded in the right hand. September 19, 1863, at the battle of Chickamauga, he was wounded in the right side of the face, the missile penetrating the flesh and striking the bone. While on the Atlanta campaign, in June, 1864, his comrade, Robert Swan, was wounded while his arm was resting on Mr. Allen's shoulder, the ball passing entirely through the body and penetrating the right lung. On the same campaign, July 4, 1864, another comrade, Joseph Voshier, was shot and instantly killed while lying on the ground beside Mr. Allen. During the months of January, February and March, 1865, Mr. Allen was on a march through the mountains of East Tennessee. From there he was sent to New Orleans, thence to Texas, where he was discharged at Goliad, that State, November 24, 1865, reaching home December 17, 1865. He was married February 15, 1866, to Miss Elizabeth Ellen Todd, who was born December 22, 1847, the fifth daughter of Jacob and Jane (Thomas) Todd. The following children have been born to them—Victor Uriah, born March 9, 1867, died April 17, 1867; Lulu Jane, born May 3, 1868; Wealthy Adell, born January 22, 1871, and Don Stanley Hezekiah, born October 25, 1877. In politics Mr. Allen is a Republican, and takes an active interest in the party of his choice. He held the office of postmaster at Ossian from September, 1879, until September, 1881. He is a member of Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M., and also belongs to William Swain Post, No. 169, G. A. R. Mr. Allen is an earnest, energetic business man, and an enterprising public-spirited citizen, and is al-

ways ready and willing to aid in all things that tend to the public good, and in all benevolent enterprises. He and his excellent wife are well known for their hospitality.

—❖—❖—❖—❖—❖—

SAMUEL L. RIDDILE, of Bluffton, was born in Trumbull County (now Mahoning), Ohio, the date of his birth being March 12, 1827. He is the eldest son and second child in a family of five children of Andrew J. and Matilda (Taylor) Riddile, the parents being natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in Washington County, that State, in 1800, a son of Samuel and Martha (Johnson) Riddile, and a grandson of David Riddile, who was of Scotch descent. The mother of our subject was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1800, a daughter of George and Betsy (McConahey) Taylor, and was of Irish ancestry. In 1807 Samuel Riddile, the grandfather of our subject, immigrated to what is now Mahoning County, Ohio, and there erected a saw and grist and earding mill, and also a distillery, and followed these several avocations for many years, living in that county the remainder of his life. His son, Andrew J., spent his youth in assisting his father in the mill, residing with his parents until he grew to manhood. He was married in 1824 to Miss Matilda Taylor, who came with her parents to Portage County, Ohio, in 1804, where her father followed farming the rest of his life. After his marriage Andrew J. settled on a farm near his father's home, where he lived until 1840, and in September of that year he came to Wells County, Indiana, and purchased 160 acres of unimproved land near Bluffton, where he followed farming until his death in the year 1855. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church until

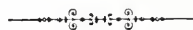
his death, and his wife was a member of the same church. She died in the year 1850. They were the parents of five children—Elizabeth (deceased), Samuel L., George T., Martha S. and Hiram D. Samuel L., whose name heads this sketch, was thirteen years old when brought by his parents to Wells County, and here his youth was passed assisting his father in clearing and improving their frontier farm, receiving such education as could be obtained in the primitive log cabin subscription schools. He grew to manhood on the home farm in Wells County, and commenced life for himself on eighty acres of wild land, part of the old homestead given him by his father, which he cleared and improved. He was married March 10, 1857, to Miss Mary A. Van Emon, who was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1837, coming with her parents to Wells County in 1847. They are the parents of three children—Theodore, Allie and Della. Mr. Riddile resided on his farm in Harrison Township until 1864, when he sold his land and bought 160 acres of land on section 12, Rock Creek Township, making that his home until he came to his present home in Bluffton in 1886. In politics he is a Democrat. For three terms he served as township trustee, and for three years held the office of county commissioner. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

—❖—❖—❖—❖—❖—

JOHAN BYALL, who is now deceased, was one of the old and honored pioneers of Jackson Township. He came to Wells County in the fall of 1846, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 28, Jackson Township, this land having been entered by his father in 1840. Mr. Byall was born in Wayne County, Ohio, June 23, 1817, a son

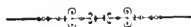
of James and Mary (Haltpruner) Byall, the father a native of Baltimore County, Maryland, born in 1788, and the mother born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in December, 1799. They afterward settled in Wayne County, where they lived until their death, the father dying July 4, 1855, and the mother January 4, 1887. They were the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. The father was a farmer by occupation. He was of French descent, his forefathers having left France for England. They were French Protestants and were persecuted for their religion. They subsequently came to America in a very early day, and settled in the State of Maryland. James Byall, the father of our subject, was a soldier during the war of 1812, and was in Hull's surrender. The mother drew a pension of \$8 a month for this service until her death. John Byall, whose name heads this sketch, grew to manhood in his native county, being reared to the avocation of a farmer, receiving his education in the common schools, and subsequently engaged in teaching school, which he followed both before and after coming to Wells County. He was married in Wayne County, Ohio, September 22, 1846, to Miss Magdalena Keagle, who was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, June 24, 1827. Nine children were born to this union—Alexander, Hamilton, Rosanna (deceased), Rachel (deceased), Oscar, Howard M., Henry S., Emma (deceased), and one who died in infancy unnamed. In his political views Mr. Byall was a Democrat. He served as justice of the peace several years, and also was township clerk and trustee, serving in all these official positions with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. When he came to Wells County, in 1846, the land was heavily covered with timber, and the surrounding country was in a state of

nature. He lived in his pioneer log cabin and cleared his land, and by industry and persevering energy he converted it into a well cultivated farm, erected a good residence and farm buildings, and by his honorable and upright dealings he gained the confidence and respect of the entire community. Mr. Byall died September 16, 1883, his wife preceding him two years, her death occurring January 25, 1881. The homestead is now occupied by his sons, Oscar and Henry S. Oscar Byall was united in marriage October 27, 1885, to Miss Martha E. McCoy, a native of Jackson Township, Wells County, born September 24, 1865, and to them have been born one child, William E. Mrs. Oscar Byall is a member of the Christian church.



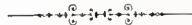
JAMES CROSBIE, one of the enterprising and public-spirited citizens of Wells County, is a native of Scotland, born in Earlstoun, Berwickshire, February 7, 1821. His parents, Thomas and Christina (Kelly) Crosbie, were natives of the same shire. They were the parents of six children, three sons and three daughters, our subject being the eldest child. He attended school until reaching the age of fourteen years, when he began working as a laborer for a turnpike company. He worked in this capacity until eighteen years of age, when he was promoted to the position of superintendent, being thus employed until 1847, and for three winters during this time he attended night school. He gave up his situation with the view of coming to the United States, but obtaining another situation, to take charge of the estate of R. K. Elliott, of Clifton Park, near Kelso, he remained in his native country two years longer. He was married in 1843 to Miss Mary Rule, of Berwickshire, a daughter of

James and Agnes (Dickson) Rule, and they now have seven children—Agnes, Thomas, James R., John, Mary J., Margaret and Christina Bell. In 1819 Mr. Crosbie immigrated to America with his family, then consisting of his wife and two children, taking forty-five days to come from Glasgow to New York. He came directly to Wells County, where he purchased 160 acres of land in Rock Creek Township, which he cleared from the heavy timber and improved eighty acres, on which he resided until 1862, when he disposed of his land, and purchased 352 acres of land in Liberty Township, converting this tract from a state of nature to one of the best farms in that township, and there he made his home until coming to Bluffton in 1875, being still a resident of this city. In connection with his general farming he is extensively engaged in dealing in stock, and has followed this business twenty-five years. He built the Narrow Gauge Railroad from Bluffton to Warren, and has also built many miles of turnpike in the county. Mr. Crosbie, his wife and five of their children are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics he affiliates with the Prohibition party.



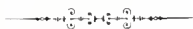
JOHAN O'BRIEN, teacher, was born in County Wexford, Ireland, August 6, 1852, son of Michael and Elizabeth (Redmond) O'Brien. His parents immigrated to America when he was three months old, landing at Savannah, Georgia, where his father was engaged in railroad work for a short time. In 1853 the family removed to East Tennessee, and the next year to the northern part of the State, near Clarksville, on the Cumberland River. There his father learned the trade of miller, an occupation he followed until the last year of the war. The

family then removed to Quincy, Illinois, and in the vicinity of that city he followed farming. The mother died there in May, 1865, and the family then removed to Butler County, Ohio, where the father was again married, and after living there about two years removed to the southern part of Jay County, this State, where he is now an extensive farmer. John followed the fortunes of his father's family until they moved to that county and early gave his attention to educational matters. His education was commenced in the subscription schools of Tennessee, continued in the common schools of Butler County, Ohio, and Jay County, Indiana, and completed at Ridgeville College, where he attended two and a half years. After that he studied law at Ridgeville with James Williamson, was admitted to the Jay County bar, at Portland, in December, 1884, and became deputy prosecutor of Jay County, an office he held from November, 1884, until March, 1885. Since that time he has continued his legal studies, and in the meantime follows teaching. He was married May 21, 1880, to Miss Maggie A. Scott, a native of Jay County, and a daughter of John and Phebe B. (Fordyce) Scott. They have two children—Willie S. and Bertha E.



GLI HOUTZ, an enterprising and successful agriculturist of Rock Creek Township, where he is engaged in farming and stock-raising, is a native of Ohio, born in Montgomery County February 2, 1846, a son of Henry Houtz. When he was three years of age his parents came to Wells County, Indiana, and here he grew to manhood, his youth being spent in assisting his father on the farm and in attending the schools of his

neighborhood, where he received a fair common-school education. He remained on the home farm with his parents until reaching his majority, when he began life on his own account. He was married September 2, 1869, to Mary Eichhorn, a daughter of Philip Eichhorn. Mrs. Houtz was born near Crestline, Ohio, and was sixteen years of age when she came to Wells County. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Houtz, of whom five yet survive—Philip E., Henry H., Clara O., Ida F. and Viola E. Margaret died when fifteen months old. After his marriage Mr. Houtz settled on his present farm on section 23, Rock Creek Township, which then consisted of eighty acres of land only partially improved, there being at that time no buildings on the place. By persevering industry and good management he has improved his land and added to his original tract until his farm now consists of 229 acres of well-cultivated land. His farm is well drained and the improvements on his place are among the best in his township, and in his chosen avocation he has been highly successful. In politics Mr. Houtz casts his suffrage with the Republican party. Both he and his wife are members of the Reformed church, and respected members of society.



HENRY HOUTZ, who has been identified with the interests of Rock Creek Township for many years, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Lebanon County November 6, 1815. His parents, Henry and Christina (Copenhauer) Houtz, were born and reared in the same county, the father being a son of Henry Houtz, whose father immigrated from Germany to America and settled in Danphin, now Lebanon County, prior to the Revolutionary war. The maternal grandfather of

our subject was also a native of the State of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. The father of our subject being a farmer, he was reared to the same avocation. He received a limited education in German and English, attending the rude log cabin subscription schools of that early day. He remained at home with his parents until nineteen years of age, when he went to Montgomery County, Ohio, with a capital of \$19. He worked on a farm there for a year, receiving \$12 a month, and at the expiration of that time he followed the carpenter's trade for two years. November 15, 1836, he was married to Miss Fannie Hark, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Bowman) Hark, who came from Pike County, Pennsylvania, and were of German ancestry. Twelve children were born to this union, of whom ten grew to maturity and eight are yet living. Their names in order of their birth are as follows—Josiah H., deceased; Sarah Ann, wife of John Harvey, of Huntington County; Jeremiah; Lydia, deceased, was the wife of William Jeffries; Eli; Amanda, deceased; L. P., of Dickerson County, Kansas; Christina, wife of Daniel Eichhorn; Eliza, wife of Samuel Bender, of Bluffton; Jacob; Angeline, wife of Frank Miller. After his marriage Mr. Houtz farmed on rented land for two years, when he purchased land, on which he followed farming until he came to Indiana in the spring of 1849. He then purchased 160 acres of partially improved land on section 14, Rock Creek Township, Wells County, for which he paid \$2,000, and to his original purchase he afterward added forty acres. For thirty-eight years he has made his home on this farm, and by hard work and good management he has met with excellent success, surrounding himself and family with all the necessary comforts of life, and by his fair and honorable dealings he has gained the

confidence and respect of the entire community. Both he and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. In his political views he was formerly a Democrat, but has affiliated with the Republican party since the late war.

JOHN FALK, an enterprising and progressive farmer of Rock Creek Township, was born in Prussia, Germany, the date of his birth being February 28, 1835. He is a son of Bernard and Theresa (Pfaff) Falk, who were natives of the same province, the father living there until his death, which occurred in 1883, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His widow is still living in Germany, aged eighty-two years. John Falk spent his youth in his native land, where he was reared to the occupation of a weaver. He remained in Germany until nineteen years of age, when, September 15, 1854, he set sail from Bremen, and after a voyage of thirty-five days landed at Baltimore, Maryland. Thirty-one of the passengers during that voyage were buried at sea. On arriving in Baltimore Mr. Falk was taken sick and lay in hospital for three weeks. When he came to America he was \$90 in debt, and the first year spent in this country he worked to pay this money. His second year's earnings were sent to his brother in Germany to pay his passage to America, but his brother changed his mind and remained in his native land. John remained in Baltimore until January 8, 1855, when he came to Wells County, Indiana, arriving at his destination January 16. He was married November 29, 1860, to Miss Helen Dewitt, a daughter of Moses Dewitt, who came to Wells County from New York when Mrs. Falk was two years old. They are the parents of

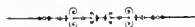
four children—Rosa Belle, David T., Francis L. and Edward. Mr. Falk worked out by the month until his marriage, when he settled in Markle, Huntington County, Indiana, where he was engaged in weaving for two years. He then removed to Lancaster Township, Wells County, and rented his father-in-law's farm for one and a half years. He farmed rented land until 1867, when he removed to his present farm on section 35, Rock Creek Township, which he had purchased in 1865. His land at that time was a dense forest, entirely unimproved, but by hard work and persevering energy he has cleared and improved it, making it one of the best farms in his neighborhood. His farm is well drained and contains eighty acres of well cultivated land. In politics Mr. Falk casts his suffrage with the Democratic party.

JOHN GORDON, farmer and stock-raiser, Rock Creek Township, was born in Roxburyshire, Scotland, February 28, 1836, the third son of Thomas and Margaret (Smith) Gordon, the father being a son of William Gordon, and the mother a daughter of William Smith. In 1853 Thomas Gordon, with his wife and seven children, immigrated to America, where his eldest son had come the previous year. They landed at New York, and came directly to Wells County, Indiana, where the father made his home with his son William until his death, which occurred in 1868, at the age of sixty-six years. His widow survived him until 1880. They reared a family of nine children to maturity, of whom eight still survive. John Gordon, whose name heads this sketch, was eighteen years old when he came with his father to Wells County. He settled in Rock Creek Township, and was variously engaged until his



Abraham Funk

marriage, which occurred March 7, 1861, to Miss Katherine Brown. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, coming to Wells County with her parents, James and Nancy Brown, when a child. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon are the parents of eight children—James T., William D., Nancy J., Margaret J., Fannie E., John O., Frank W. and Robert L. After his marriage Mr. Gordon purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land on section 33, Rock Creek Township, where he erected a log cabin and began clearing and improving his frontier home, and by hard work and close attention to his pursuits he soon had his farm under fine cultivation. He has added to his original purchase at different times until he now has 236 acres, which he has accumulated by his own persevering energy and exertions. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon are members of the Presbyterian church, and respected citizens of Rock Creek Township. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. During the war of the Rebellion Mr. Gordon enlisted in the defense of his country, and was assigned to Company D, Fifty-first Indiana Infantry. He served with the Army of the Tennessee under General Thomas, and participated in the battles of Franklin and Nashville and many others, and was discharged in June, 1865, the war being ended.



ABSALOM FUNK was born near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1829, and died at his home in Lancaster Township July 9, 1875. During his residence in Wells County he was one of its most progressive farmers, and an active and public-spirited citizen. He came to Wells County in November, 1866, bringing his family from Wayne County, Ohio. He had quite a capital, and bought a tract of 320

acres of land in Liberty Township, which was almost entirely unimproved, only seven acres being cleared and a log cabin built. This was the first cabin erected in the neighborhood. He lived on his land in Liberty Township six and a half years, and during this time he built a good house and a saw-mill, which he successfully operated, clearing and improving about forty acres of his land. In the spring of 1874 he traded his land to James Russell for the homestead on section 34, Lancaster Township, where his widow and part of his family still reside, and there erected one of the finest farm residences in Lancaster Township in 1874, and here he lived till his death. He left 201 acres—one of the finest properties in Wells County. Mr. Funk was a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Funk, who in 1831 moved to Wayne County, Ohio, the mother dying in that county. The father died at the home of our subject in Liberty Township. Absalom Funk was reared to agricultural pursuits, and made that the avocation of his life. January 8, 1852, he married Miss Ann Margaret Bower, who was born in Stark County, Ohio, December 2, 1825, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Bower, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively, both of whom were reared in Ohio, and are now living in Wayne County, that State. Mr. and Mrs. Funk made their home in Wayne County, Ohio, until coming to Wells County, and their eight children were born in Ohio, as follows—William Henry, who is married and lives on part of the old homestead, though owning a small farm near by; Mary Elizabeth, who died in Ohio, aged two months and twenty-seven days; Martin L., residing with his mother, and the chief manager of the estate; Benjamin F., living in Salina, Ohio; Jacob, of Rock Creek Township, is married; Susanah M., wife of Frank Garrett, of Liberty

Township; John B., married and living in Liberty Township, and Rachel May. The family have added forty acres by purchase to the estate, and made valuable building improvements, having erected one of the largest and best arranged barns in the township. Mr. Funk was a member of the German Reformed church, having united with that church in 1854. Mrs. Funk has been a member of the same church since 1837.

ELI GRIFFITH, deceased, was one of the pioneers of Jackson Township. He was a native of Perry County, Ohio, born in July, 1815, and was there reared and married. After his marriage he moved, in 1838, to Wells County, Indiana, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 32, Jackson Township, where he lived until his death, which occurred January 16, 1877. In politics he was a Democrat. When he came to settle on this farm he had to cut a road in order to drive his team and wagon to it. He then lived in his wagon until a cabin was erected in a mass of woods. He saw the Indians trailing through the woods and could hear the wolf howl at night. He could stand in his cabin door and shoot the bounding deer which roamed the woods, and to-day the golden grain grows upon the fields that he cleared day by day. His wife, who survives him, was Mary J. Burkett. She was a native of Pennsylvania, born September 29, 1818, and came to Ohio in 1824, and was married to Eli Griffith in 1836. They had a family of eleven children, five of whom are living—Catherann, Mary E., Aaron P., James B. and Michael W. Michael W. was born July 1, 1859, on the farm where his parents first settled, and where he still lives. He was married in November, 1883, to Nancy A.

Banter, a native of Champaign County, Ohio, born October 10, 1862. They have three children—Grover E., born August 7, 1884; Carrie M., August 27, 1885; Odes H., January 6, 1887. John Griffith, deceased, father of Eli, was a native of Virginia, born in 1778, and there was reared and married to Polly Groves, a native of England, born in 1780. From Virginia they moved to Perry County, Ohio, and in 1838 they came to Wells County, Indiana, and settled in Jackson Township, on the northwest quarter of section 33, where they lived until death; the former died August 28, 1853, and his wife April 25, 1854, and they were buried on the farm where they lived. Michael Burkett, deceased, father of Mary J., was a native of Germany, born in 1794, and there reared and married to Mary Amon, also a native of Germany, born in 1790. In 1817 they came to Pennsylvania, and from there they moved in 1824 to Perry County, Ohio, where they lived until death, the father dying in 1838 and the mother September 1, 1862.

JAMES W. SALE, of the firm Studabaker, Sale & Co., grain merchants, Bluffton, Indiana, is a native of Indiana, born in North Manchester, Wabash County, August 1, 1858, a son of Rev. Francis A. and Mary A. (Warnock) Sale. His father was born in Greene County, Ohio, June 7, 1816, where he spent his early life. Coming to Indiana in 1834 he entered the ministry, and joined the North Indiana Methodist Episcopal Conference in 1850, of which he was an active member until April, 1878. During this time he filled some of the most important pulpits in his conference. He was pastor of Bluffton charge during the years 1855 and 1856. He died at Marion, Grant County,

Indiana, February 12, 1879, less than a year after his effective relation with the conference had ceased. He was the son of Rev. John and Nancy (Bonner) Sale. His father was of Scotch descent, a native of West Virginia, and was a prominent pioneer preacher of Ohio, and a co-worker with Bishop Asbury. The mother of our subject was born in Monroe County, Indiana, November 16, 1820, and has lived with her son James since the death of his father. She was the daughter of James and Nancy (Garner) Warnock. Her father was of Irish ancestry, a native of Kentucky, and one of the early settlers of Indiana, locating first in Clark County, afterward moving to La Porte County, where he spent most of his life. He died at La Fayette, Indiana, April 29, 1887, at the advanced age of ninety-three years, having lived thirty-three days without food. James W. Sale spent the early part of his life in the different schools where his parents were located until his fifteenth year, when at Logansport, Indiana, he was taken out of school by the advice of his physician on account of poor health. During the summer of 1873 he learned the art of telegraphy, but this business not being to his liking he abandoned it after a short time and came to Bluffton and took employment in the office of Waring, Sale & Co., grain dealers, his brother, John W. Sale, being a member of the firm. He was with them irregularly for two years, and was then taken in the employ of Studabaker, Wiley & Co., dry goods, where he remained two years, acting in the capacity of cashier and bookkeeper. Then two years as bookkeeper for Waring, Studabaker & Co., grain dealers. In 1880 he became bookkeeper in the Exchange Bank, Bluffton, filling that position five years, which he resigned to accept a partnership interest with Waring, Studabaker & Co. Shortly af-

ter Mr. Waring retired and the firm became Studabaker, Sale & Co., the individual members being at present John Studabaker, his sons David E. and John A. and Mr. Sale. They do an extensive business, operating at a number of other points as well as Bluffton, and are probably the largest grain shippers in Northern Indiana. Mr. Sale was married September 9, 1884, to Miss Bessie Klinek, second daughter of Dwight and Mary J. (Studabaker) Klinek. Her father, Dwight Klinek, was born in New York, June 18, 1835, and was drowned May 7, 1875, while en route to Europe on the ill-fated steamer Schiller, which sank in the English Channel. Her mother, Mary J. Studabaker, the eldest daughter of John and Rebecca Studabaker, was born in Bluffton, September 27, 1842, where she still resides, now the wife of Mr. Jacob J. Todd. Miss Klinek was born in Bluffton April 21, 1865, and with the exception of a short residence in Chicago with her parents during the years 1869 to 1873, this has always been her home. Possessed of an affectionate and unselfish nature, she grew up to a noble womanhood, beloved of the entire community, and bid fair to be one of the brightest jewels in Bluffton society. The married life of the young couple started under the most auspicious circumstances, and the future was bright with promise, when suddenly, on September 7, 1886, within two days of their second anniversary, death stepped in and broke the bans, and Mr. Sale was left alone with a little daughter, Bessie, but ten hours old. Mrs. Sale was an exemplary Christian and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Sale being an earnest member of the same denomination, and at present secretary of the board of trustees of the church in Bluffton. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows order, Bluffton Lodge, No.

114, and Bluffton Encampment, No. 141. He has passed all the chairs of his lodge, and is a member of the Grand Lodge of Indiana. In politics Mr. Sade is a Republican.

DR. JOHN I. METTS, of Ossian, was born in Licking County, Ohio, June 16, 1832, son of James W. and Miranda (Sutton) Metts. September 10, 1837, the family came to this county and settled near where Murray is now located. At that time Murray had no store. Noah Toby and Jesse Whitmer, only a short time before, had erected a saw-mill. James Metts entered a quarter section of land, built a log cabin and began the work of clearing up a farm. Three children, William H., John I. and Milton S., constituted the family at that date, all born in Licking County, Ohio. Later other sons and daughters came to grace their Western home—Alfred H., Norville W., Mary E., Elza B., Maranda D. and Sarept L. The parents took great pride in the education of their children, and all have made their mark in professional and social life. William, the eldest son, attended Franklin College, and afterward entered the ministry, remaining in that profession during his life, and was filling the sacred desk at the Methodist Episcopal church at Dublin, Indiana, when his death occurred. Milton S. Metts attended college at Fort Wayne, and entered the ministry in 1860. He was also a physician and a student of John I. A. H. Metts was also a student of our subject, and attended lectures at Rush Medical College of Chicago, prior to his enlistment in the One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry. He began practice in partnership with John I. Metts in 1865, at Ossian, which has been continued to the present time. Mary E. was a teacher in the public schools

previous to marriage; she is now the wife of Thomas A. Doan, proprietor of the Ossian saw-mills. Elza B. studied law after his return from the war, during which time he was a member of Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. He has become prominent in legal matters, and has served as judge of the court in St. Mary's Parish, Louisiana, of which State he is now a resident. He is also attorney for the Louisiana & Northern Railroad. Maranda D. was also a teacher, and is now the wife of Robert Archbald, a farmer and merchant of this county. Sarept L. became the wife of Dr. George N. Worley, of Williamsport, Indiana; she was also a teacher for several years. Dr. John I. Metts attended Fort Wayne College in 1852, having previously taught school during the winter seasons. He also began the study of medicine during that year, under the tutelage of Dr. Adam Davidson, resident physician at Murray, and attended medical college at Louisville and Cincinnati. He was matriculated at the noted Miami College of that city in 1854-'55; has also taken an honorary degree at the Fort Wayne Medical College. He located at Ossian May 6, 1855, and four years later was married to Miss Nancy C. Cartwright, daughter of John and Margaret (McCorkle) Cartwright, who were among the early settlers of this county. The doctor and his wife are the parents of five children, all living except the eldest son, William E., whose death occurred when nineteen years of age. The others are—Josephine, John W., Robert E. and Fred A. Miss Josephine is a graduate of Fort Wayne College, and the two eldest sons are graduates of the Ossian High School. Only two physicians are living in this county who were in practice when Dr. Metts located here. He owns and resides upon a nice farm near the village, and has been one of the most successful men of his neighborhood. He was elected

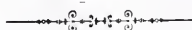
trustee of his township in 1859, and held the office until 1878; four years later he was re-elected and served two terms. He was a charter member of Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M., and was the first treasurer. The second year he was elected master and served ten years. He was one of the instigators of this lodge. The graded school at Ossian was established during his term as trustee, which met with a bitter opposition from many, but the good people of this town now highly prize the effort made by the doctor, as the school ranks second to none in this county.

ALEXANDER BYALL, an active and progressive farmer of Jackson Township, residing on section 30, is a son of John Byall, one of the old and respected pioneers of Wells County. Alexander was born on his father's homestead in Jackson Township, October 7, 1847, where he grew to manhood, his youth being spent in assisting on the farm and attending the common schools of his neighborhood. He completed his education at the Bluffton High School, which he attended three terms, and on attaining the age of twenty-one years he engaged in teaching school, which he followed eleven terms in connection with farming. April 24, 1878, he was united in marriage to Miss Christina Wallace, who was born in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, February 17, 1852, a daughter of Thomas and Agnes Wallace, who settled in Wells County in the early days of the county. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Byall—Agnes M., John W., Maggie B., Henry V. and Victoria L. After their marriage they settled on the farm where they still reside, and by industry and good management have

acquired their present fine property, their farm containing 112 acres under a good state of cultivation. Mrs. Byall received her education in the public schools of Bluffton, and taught several terms in Bluffton and vicinity before her marriage. She is a member of the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM MILLER, one of the early settlers of Wells County, and a prosperous agriculturist of Rock Creek Township, where he resides on section 13, is a native of Maryland, born November 3, 1824. His parents, Frederick and Susan (Pantus) Miller, were natives of Pennsylvania, the father born in York County, that State, of German ancestry. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom our subject was the seventh son and eleventh child. When he was three years old they removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, remaining there a number of years, and from there went to Franklin County, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The father being a farmer, our subject was reared to the same avocation, which he has made his life-work. His educational advantages were such as could be obtained in the rude log cabin subscription schools of that early day. In 1851 he came to Wells County, Indiana, and he and his brother purchased a tract of 200 acres of heavily-timbered land in Rock Creek Township, which they began clearing and improving. His brother died during the war of the Rebellion, when he came into possession of the whole farm, and is now the owner of 291 acres of well-improved and highly-cultivated land, all the improvements on his land having been done by himself. March 3, 1859, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Susan Bender, a native of Pennsyl-

vania, coming to Wells County with her parents, John and Barbara (Mast) Bender, when about eleven years of age. To this union seven children were born—Franklin T., Barbara E., wife of John Staver; William S., Lydia M., John B., Charles H. (was killed at the age of eight years) and Ada M. August 15, 1861, Mr. Miller enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, and served his country three years. September 19, 1863, he was wounded at the battle of Chickamanga in the left hip, and was also captured. He was held a prisoner twelve days, and then sent to the Union lines by an agreement with both armies. He returned to his regiment May 1, 1864, and served until the close of the war. In politics Mr. Miller was formerly a Democrat, but since the war of the Rebellion he has affiliated with the Republican party. Although his political party is in the minority in Rock Creek Township, he was elected to the office of township trustee in April, 1886. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Lutheran church.



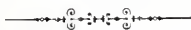
JACOB FARLING, one of the old and honored pioneers of Wells County, and a worthy representative of Rock Creek Township, where he resides on section 15, was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, November 4, 1822, a son of Abraham and Catherine (Lesh) Farling, who were also natives of the State of Pennsylvania. The grandfather of our subject was a native of the same State, his father being a native of Wittemberg, Germany, who came to America before the war of the Revolution, and served as a soldier during that war. The mother of our subject was a daughter of Peter Lesh, a native of Pennsylvania, whose father came

from Germany in an early day. Jacob Farling was reared to the avocation of a farmer on the home farm, and in his youth received such educational advantages as the rude log cabin subscription schools of that early day afforded. He made his home with his parents until their death. He was married in September, 1846, to Miss Elizabeth Crum, a native of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Haines) Crum, who were born in the State of Pennsylvania, of German descent. To this union were born nine children—Mary Ann, wife of Daniel Eliek, of Wells County; Maria Catherine, married Samuel Harness; Harriet is the wife of Levi Swertz; Elizabeth Louisa, deceased, was the wife of John H. Millen; Jacob F., William Alfred and three who died in infancy. Mr. Farling remained in his native county until about two years after his marriage, when, October 22, 1848, he started with his wife and two children for Indiana in a two-horse wagon, and after a journey of twenty-seven days landed in Wells County. The roads to Greenville, Ohio, were good, but the rest of the journey was made at the rate of nine or ten miles a day, owing to the poor condition of the roads. His parents, his sister, with her husband and family, and Samuel Straw and wife came at the same time, and all made homes in Wells County. The father purchased 320 acres of land in Rock Creek Township, where he died the June following his arrival into the county. The mother of our subject died in the same township, in 1868. Jacob Farling settled on a tract of 160 acres which his father had purchased, which he began to clear and improve, and by hard work and persevering energy he soon brought his land under cultivation, and is still living on the same farm, which now consists of 200 acres of well improved and highly cultivated land.



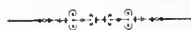
Joseph Lesh

In politics Mr. Farling affiliates with the Democratic party. From 1856 until 1863 he served his township as trustee, and in the fall of 1863 was elected county commissioner, serving as such four years to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He was one of the organizers of the Rock Creek Detective Association, of which he was president, and is at present president of the Rock Creek Insurance Company. In his chosen avocation he has met with excellent success, and by industry and good management acquired his fine property, and by his fair and honorable dealings and strict integrity he has gained the confidence and esteem of all who know him. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church.



WINFIELD SCOTT SILVER, attorney at law and member of the firm of Duglay & Silver, Bluffton, Indiana, is a native of Allen County, Indiana, born near Leo, April 15, 1849. His parents, Joseph C. and Margaret (Fitts) Silver, were of German ancestry. When he was six years old his parents moved to Bluffton, and here he was reared and educated. From his fourteenth to his nineteenth year he worked in the saw-mill with his father, and then went to Kansas, remaining in that State two years. In 1870 he returned to Bluffton, and was soon after employed by the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad Company as assistant freight agent, remaining with them until 1874. In 1875 and 1876 he attended the Miami Commercial College at Dayton, Ohio, and in the latter part of 1876 went to Missouri and worked in the lead mines in Benton and Morgan counties until the spring of 1878. He then returned to Bluffton and began the study of law in the office of J. J.

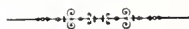
Todd, where he continued until 1882, when he was admitted to the bar and began his practice. In 1885 he became associated with Asbury Duglay in the practice of his profession. In 1880, by direction of the Republican State Central Committee, he polled Wells County, and the election returns proved it to be the most accurate ever made in the county. He was chairman of the Republican County Central Committee during the campaigns of 1882 and 1884. In 1882 he was a candidate for the nomination for the office of Secretary of State. On the first ballot the vote was a tie as between Mr. Silver and Hon. Robert Mitchell who was nominated on the third ballot. His race for this nomination was one of the most brilliant ever made by a young man in the State. In 1886 he was a member of the Republican State Executive Committee. He was married January 14, 1886, to Miss Eva Thompson Lacey, a daughter of Rev. Henry J. Lacey and Elizabeth (Thompson) Lacey. They have one child, Paul Wendling, born December 23, 1886. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Silver being a member of the board of trustees of that church at Bluffton. He is also a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 114, I. O. O. F. Mr. and Mrs. Silver are highly esteemed members of society.



JOSEPH LESH, a successful agriculturist of Rock Creek Township, engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 9, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, March 29, 1835. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Ulrich) Lesh, were natives of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. They had a family of twelve children, of whom nine are still living. Of this family our subject was

the seventh son and tenth child. He was reared on a farm in his native county until 1850, when he came with his parents to Wells County, Indiana, they locating on a tract of unimproved land on section 17, Rock Creek Township. Here his father purchased sixty acres, which he cleared and improved, making his home on this land until his death, which occurred in January, 1864, at the age of sixty-two years. His widow survived until May, 1881, dying at the advanced age of eighty-three years. She was an active and consistent member of the German Reformed church. Joseph Lesh was fifteen years of age when he came with his parents to Wells County. He lived on the home farm in Rock Creek Township until 1856, when he went to Murray, Wells County, and began clerking in the store of Hiram Hatfield, where he remained two years. He then went to Bluffton, and was employed by George Arnold for one year, when he went to Markle and engaged in the mercantile business with his former employer, Mr. Hatfield. A year later he purchased his partner's interest and continued the business four years. In 1864 he sold out the business and purchased a small farm on section 9, where he has since followed farming, and by his own efforts has accumulated his present fine property, which consists of 420 acres of well improved and highly cultivated land, the result of persevering industry and good management. Mr. Lesh was married October 4, 1860, to Miss Sarah Lesh, a daughter of John and Harriet (McAffee) Lesh, who came from Berks County, Pennsylvania, to Wells County, Indiana, in 1847. Eight children have been born to this union—Daniel W., Douglas A., Quilla, Priscilla (died aged five months), Sylvester, Ulysses S., Lincoln and John E. Mr. and Mrs. Lesh are and have been members of the Evangelical Lutheran church since 1861. In politics Mr.

Lesh is a Republican. At present he is serving as secretary for the Rock Creek Fire Insurance Company, and also for the Rock Creek Detective Association.

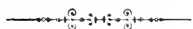


HENRY KIRKWOOD, Sheriff of Wells County, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 25, 1845, the eldest child of William and Susannah (Gehrett) Kirkwood, who are natives of Pennsylvania, the father of Irish-German and the mother of German descent. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters. They came to Wells County, Indiana, with their family in 1850, and located in Nottingham Township, where the father has since followed farming, and with that avocation pursued the tanner's trade until 1862. Politically he is a Democrat. He has held the office of commissioner of Wells County for six years, and has served efficiently for three years as trustee of Nottingham Township. The mother is a member of the German Baptist church. Henry Kirkwood, whose name heads this sketch, grew to manhood in Nottingham Township, being reared a farmer and tanner. He was married in Nottingham Township, in January, 1870, to Miss Sarah E. King, who was born and reared in Wells County, a daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Bolender) King. To this union have been born five children—Rosella, Willison, Mahala, Jennie and Charles, all but the youngest child being students at the Bluffton High School. In 1871 Mr. Kirkwood engaged in saw-milling in Nottingham Township, which he followed until 1884, when being elected sheriff, he discontinued his milling business to assume the duties of his office, and became a resident of Bluffton. He was re-elected to the same office which he still holds,



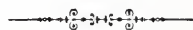
Henry Kirkwood

and is serving with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. In politics he casts his suffrage with the Democratic party. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 92, K. of P., and also belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Bluffton. Mrs. Kirkwood is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.



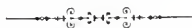
JAMES BLUE, a representative of one of the old and honored pioneers of Wells County, resides on section 15, of Lancaster Township, on the homestead established by his father in February, 1840. His father, Uriah Blue, was a native of Miami County, Ohio, a son of Michael Blue, who was born in the same county, and was a son of Uriah Blue, who was the first settler of Miami County. Michael Blue was one of the mounted rangers who rode to the relief of Fort Wayne when besieged during the war of 1812. The Blue family have been intimately connected with the pioneer history nearly one hundred years. Uriah Blue was married to Miss Rachel Moore, and to this union were born nine children—Mary, Lucinda, Michael C., James, Catherine, Elizabeth, Uriah, John (deceased) and Melissa, the last five being natives of Wells County. The father was a carpenter by trade, which he made the principal avocation of his life. In 1838, before coming to Wells County, he had bought eighty acres, and in 1839 entered eighty acres from the Government. He came to the county with his wife and family, which then consisted of four children. He endeared himself to all the early settlers with whom he came in contact by his many manly qualities, and was highly respected by all who knew him. He died at the age of sixty-five years, his widow surviving him about ten years. James Blue, the

subject of this sketch, was but a child when brought by his parents to Wells County, and here he has since made his home. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade, and also mill engineering, and has devoted more time to these pursuits than to farming, which he has followed in different counties in Indiana, and in Allegan County, Michigan. In 1865 he married Elizabeth Myers, a daughter of Jacob Myers, an old pioneer of Lancaster Township, now residing at Murray. To them were born the following children—Willie, who died aged six years; Lulu, James and Franklin. Mrs. Blue died April 22, 1873, aged thirty-four years. Mr. Blue was again married April 26, 1879, to Miss Virginia Bennett, a daughter of Call and Elizabeth Bennett, her father being one of the pioneers of Lancaster Township, and a large land owner. He died about 1866. The mother of Mrs. Blue still lives on the old homestead. Three children have been born to Mr. Blue's second marriage—Merlie E., Estella V. and an infant daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Blue are members of the Baptist church at Bluffton. In politics Mr. Blue affiliates with the Democratic party.



WILLIAM COVER, engaged in farming and dealing in stock, Rock Creek Township, was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, February 17, 1842, the only son of John and Harriet (McAffee) Cover. John Cover was a native of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. He died when our subject was two years old, and his widow subsequently married John Lesh, and in May, 1848, they removed to Wells County, Indiana, where William was reared. He remained with his mother and step-father until reaching his majority, and

from the age of eighteen until twenty-one years old he worked for pay for his step-father. December 24, 1863, he was married to Miss Louisa A. Haffliel, a native of Richland County, Ohio, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah Haffliel, who were natives of Pennsylvania, of German ancestry. Of the ten children born to this union, seven are living—Samantha, Jane I., Matilda Ann, William O., Ollie L., Homer I. and Thomas C. Rosenna, Evalina and an infant unnamed are deceased. After his marriage Mr. Cover settled on his father-in-law's farm. After the death of his father-in-law, in 1870, he purchased two-thirds of the farm, and later bought the rest of the farm. He was reared to the avocation of a farmer, which he has followed principally through life, and in his chosen avocation has met with success. In August, 1879, in connection with his general farm he engaged in shipping stock, which enterprise he has since followed successfully. His farm now contains 221 acres of land, which is under a fine state of cultivation. In 1870 he was elected assessor of Rock Creek Township, and served as such seven years by re-election. In 1882 he was elected township trustee, which office he held two years. He also served two years as constable, having been elected to that office in 1866. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church.



BIRKET M. ELKINS, one of the old and respected pioneers of Wells County, residing on section 20, Jackson Township, was born in Culpeper, now Rappahannock County, Virginia, September 9, 1803, a son of Philip and Sarah (McCormick) Elkins, who were natives of Virginia, of Irish descent. The father served in the war of 1812,

participated in several battles, and for his service received a land warrant. The parents emigrated to Perry County, Ohio, in an early day, where the mother died. They had a family of six children, four sons and two daughters. The father was again united in marriage, and came with his family to Indiana, settling in Jackson Township, Wells County. He subsequently went to Missouri, where he died. His son, Philip Elkins, is the father of Stephen B. Elkins, who was manager of Blaine's presidential campaign. Birket M. Elkins, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in his native State, where he received a good common-school education. He was married November 22, 1824, in Virginia, to Hannah Stallard, who was born in Virginia March 8, 1807, and to this union were born nine children—Andrew Jackson served as a soldier in the Union army, and died six days after returning home; Joseph C. (deceased), Daniel K. (deceased), William T., Mary E., Sarah C., Philip, Lee (deceased) and Lucretia A. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Elkins removed with his father's family to Ohio, and in 1847 he came to Wells County, Indiana, settling on the farm where he now resides, entering 320 acres of land on section 20, Jackson Township. His first house in the then wilderness of Jackson Township was built of round logs, with clap-board roof and puncheon floor. This humble cabin was afterward replaced by a hewed-log house, which he occupied until his present comfortable frame residence was erected. He cleared and improved his land until he has now one of the best farms in his neighborhood. He has prospered in his agricultural pursuits, and at one time owned 400 acres, which he has given to his children with the exception of 160 acres, which he retains for himself. Mrs. Elkins died in the fall of 1876, and in June, 1877, Mr. Elkins married

Esther (Good) Colbert, a native of Henry County, Indiana, born December 27, 1833, a daughter of Nathaniel and Nancy (Batson) Good, and widow of Lewis H. Colbert. Nathaniel Good was an early settler of Jackson Township, where he lived till his death. He was a native of Perry County, Ohio, and was a farmer by occupation. He was a Democrat in politics. He was a prominent citizen, and served as justice of the peace, probate or associate judge, and was assessor for several terms. He was a member of the Universalist church. By his marriage with Esther Good three children were born, two of whom are yet living—Mary J. and Nora E. Nathaniel Batson, father of Mrs. Good, was one of the early pioneers of Jackson Township, settling here about 1835. He was born in Ohio in 1808, and came to Henry County, Indiana, with his parents when a boy, and was there married to Nancy Rolleston, a native of Kentucky, born in 1809, coming to Wells County after his marriage. He was a Democrat in politics. He served several terms as county commissioner, and was frequently chosen to act as jurymen. He was a member of the Universalist church. He died December 2, 1878, his widow surviving until March 25, 1881. They were the parents of five sons and six daughters. Mr. Elkins was always a farmer, following that avocation before coming to Indiana. Mrs. Elkins was first married in May, 1853, to Lewis H. Colbert, and to this union were born three children—Alonzo, Nancy Viola and Lewis H. Mr. Colbert was a native of Ohio, and came with his parents to Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, where he was married and lived until his death in September, 1858. He followed farming the greater part of his life. In his political views he was a Democrat, and served as township trustee of Chester Township for a

time, to the satisfaction of his constituents. In politics Mr. Elkins has always been a staunch Democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Andrew Jackson, and his last for Cleveland. He has always taken an active interest in public affairs, and has served as Deputy United States Marshal for Perry County and Sergeant-at-Arms in the Ohio Legislature, as justice of the peace, and as postmaster. He was also a member of the State Legislature, representing Wells and Adams counties in the session of 1851-'52, and also served one term as county commissioner, serving in these positions to the best interests of his township or county. Mr. Elkins united with the Masonic fraternity on becoming of age, and is now a member of Warren Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Warren, Huntington County, Indiana.

JACOB BEIL, an early settler of Wells County, engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 11, Rock Creek Township, was born in Millin County, Pennsylvania, February 10, 1820, his parents, John and Sarah (Earnest) Beil, being natives of the State of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. When our subject was eight years old his parents removed to Trumbull County, Ohio, settling in a dense wilderness, where Jacob was reared on a frontier farm, his education being such as could be obtained in the log cabin subscription schools of that early day. His youth was spent in assisting his father clear and improve his frontier farm, he remaining under the home roof until reaching his majority. September 23, 1840, he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Harshman, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Harshman, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. To Mr.

and Mrs. Beil were born six children—Philip A., residing in Trumbull County, Ohio; Amanda, wife of Andrew Hatfield, of Union Township, Wells County; Parintha, widow of Joseph Hatfield, late of Rock Creek Township; John E., of Bluffton; Henry A., at home with his parents, and Elizabeth, who died in early childhood. After his marriage Mr. Beil settled on a farm in Trumbull County, Ohio, where he followed agricultural pursuits until he came to Wells County, Indiana, in the year 1864. He then purchased a farm on section 9, Rock Creek Township, where he lived for nine years, when he bought and removed to his present farm on section 10 of the same township, where he has 100 acres of well improved land, which he has acquired by his own exertions, and is classed among the self-made men of his township. In his political views Mr. Beil is a Democrat. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM GREGG, an active and enterprising agriculturist of Rock Creek Township, is a native of Ireland, born in County Donegal, November 10, 1837, a son of Richard and Fanny (McClure) Gregg. He was reared in his native country, residing with his parents until the spring of 1855, when, in company with his brother, he started for America, and after a voyage of five weeks, landed at New York. He came directly to Wells County, Indiana, and in 1857 he purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land on section 35, Rock Creek Township, which he at once began to clear and improve. He was united in marriage in November, 1859, to Miss Agnes Gordon, a native of Scotland, who came to America with her father, Thomas Gordon,

when a child. Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Gregg five are living—Fanny M., Margaret E., Eliza Ann, Jennie May, and Mary J. One child died in infancy. Mr. Gregg is a self-made man, having by persevering industry and good management met with good success in his agricultural pursuits, and acquired his present fine property. His farm, which now consists of 140 acres, is cleared of timber, and is now under a high state of cultivation. In politics Mr. Gregg affiliates with the Republican party. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 114, I. O. O. F.

MRS. CYNTHIA A. PARKER, residing on section 21, Jackson Township, was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, September 18, 1830. Her parents, Simeon W. and Nancy (Irwin) Swain, were also natives of the same State, the father born in Stokes County and the mother in Guilford County. In the fall of 1833 they removed with their family to Preble County, Ohio, living there until 1836, coming thence to Indiana, and locating in Huntington County, where the father entered 120 acres of land. There the parents lived until their death, the father dying May 9, 1841, and the mother in September, 1866. They were the parents of ten children, of whom only five survive, one son and four daughters, the son being now the owner of his father's old home in Huntington County. The parents were active and earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the first meetings of that denomination in their neighborhood were held at their house. Mrs. Parker, the subject of this sketch, came with her parents to Indiana and grew to womanhood in Huntington County. She received her education by at-

tending the common and subscription schools of her neighborhood and by private study at home, and subsequently engaged in teaching school, which she followed several terms in Huntington and Wells counties, for which she received as low a salary as \$7 a month, out of which she boarded herself. She was united in marriage September 9, 1851, to Albert G. Parker, who was born in New York State in August, 1828, coming with his parents to Huntington County, Indiana, when a young man. Nine children were born to this union—Cecelia M. (deceased), Simeon S., Christopher C., Ellis C., Mary E., William H. (deceased), Samuel E., Ruth C. and Edith M. Mr. Parker now resides in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Mrs. Parker settled on the farm where she now resides in September, 1872, where she has eighty acres of choice land. Samuel E. is living at home with his mother and is engaged in broom-making. Mrs. Parker united with the Methodist Episcopal church when eleven years of age, and is still a believer in the doctrines of that church.

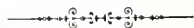
WILLIAM DICKEY, farmer, Rock Creek Township, is a native of Scotland, born in Stirlingshire December 1, 1831, a son of William and Elizabeth (Bennett) Dickey, who were natives of the same country. The father was a son of Robert and Margaret (Bayne) Dickey, and the mother of our subject was a daughter of William Bennett. In 1849 the father came to America and located in Knox County, Ohio, and the following year the remainder of the family followed him, taking seven weeks to come from Glasgow to New York. For six weeks they were out of sight of land, and at one time the sea was so rough that the

steering passengers were sent below and the hatches closed. Of the five children born to the parents of our subject only two are living. William Dickey, whose name heads this sketch, was reared in his native country, remaining there until about nineteen years of age, when he crossed the ocean with his father's family. After coming to America he worked as a laborer for two years, after which he spent two years in Ohio at boiler-making. He then came to Indiana, and followed boiler-making at Fort Wayne for two years, then was in the employ of a railroad company for six years. October 29, 1858, he was married to Miss Margaret Gordon, a daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Smith) Gordon, natives of Roxburyshire, Scotland, who came to the United States in 1854. They are the parents of five children—William, Thomas, Jannett, Elizabeth and Robert. In 1863 Mr. Dickey came with his family to Wells County, Indiana, and settled on a farm of eighty acres of partially cleared land on section 28, Rock Creek Township, where he has since followed farming, and now has his land under fine cultivation. He had purchased this land two years before coming to the county. Since becoming a resident of Rock Creek Township he has served as justice of the peace four years. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party. The father of Mr. Dickey died at his home in Wells County in April, 1876, at the age of seventy-three years. The mother died in Ohio.

CHARLES E. LACEY, a young attorney, and connected with the firm of Wilson & Todd of Bluffton, Indiana, was born at Pierceton, Kosciusko County, Indiana, April 22, 1864, and is the youngest son of Rev. Henry J. Lacey and Elizabeth (Thomp-

son) Lacey. His father was reared on a farm in Wayne County, Indiana, and was the son of William Lacey, one of the early settlers of that county. Elizabeth Thompson was born and reared in Randolph County, Indiana. Her parents died when she was young, and she was taken into the family of William Kenedy, where she lived as a daughter until her marriage to Henry J. Lacey. They settled on a farm in Randolph County, where they lived for several years until he felt himself called to the ministry. Being a member of the Methodist Episcopal church he became a minister of the gospel in that church in 1853, and continued his active ministerial labors for thirty-three years, when he retired from active duty in the spring of 1886 and went back to his farm. To Henry J. and Elizabeth Lacey were born nine children, two dying in childhood, while seven, four sons and three daughters, grew to manhood and womanhood, six of whom are now living, four sons and two daughters, the youngest of all being Charles E., the subject of this sketch. He obtained his early education in the graded and high schools of the various places where his father was engaged in the ministry until the spring of 1881, when he finished his high school studies and in the fall of the same year went to Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, to complete his education. He remained there two years, pursuing a general course of study, and in the summer of 1883 returned to Indiana. Between this time and the fall of 1884 he was engaged at different times in teaching school, in farming and in mercantile business, as clerk. In the fall of 1884 he came to Bluffton, where his father was then located, and soon after began studying law in the office of Wilson & Todd, where he has ever since remained. He was admitted to practice at the Wells County bar March 24, 1886, a short time before his

twenty-second birthday, and is the youngest attorney in Wells County. He is a Republican in politics and takes an active interest in political issues. On January 27, 1887, he was joined in marriage with Alice Studabaker, the youngest daughter of Major Peter Studabaker and Sarah (Morgan) Studabaker, and with his wife has made his home in Bluffton.



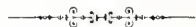
JOSEPH W. COBBURN, farmer and stock-raiser, Harrison Township, was born in Hocking County, Ohio, November 6, 1829, the second son of James L. and Sarah (Webb) Cobburn. His father was born in Maryland, July 25, 1775, of Irish ancestry. He was first married to Miss Nancy Scap, and after his marriage he settled in Pennsylvania, thence to Virginia, and from there he went to Hocking County, Ohio, being among the pioneers of that county. His wife died in Logan County, Ohio, leaving one daughter, named Nancy Ellen. He was subsequently married to Miss Sarah Webb, who came from Virginia to Hocking County, Ohio, among the first settlers. She was a native of Virginia, and of Irish descent. Seven children were born to this union, of whom six grew to maturity, five still living—William, Joseph W., Henry G., James L. and Martha E., wife of Amos Warner. Those deceased are—Amos W. and Rufus, the latter dying in infancy. Mr. Cobburn followed tailoring during the winters, and farming in the summer months in Ohio until 1836. In February of that year he started with his family for Wells County, Indiana, and the following March arrived at their destination, and the roads in those days being almost impassable, the journey was long and tedious. The father entered 160 acres of land on section 22,



John Travis

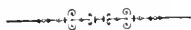
Harrison Township, which he began to clear and improve, and here he passed through all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, having no roads, only Indian trails, going many miles to mill, etc. He worked at his trade in the winter seasons, and for his pay he was assisted in the clearing of his farm. He lived to improve his farm, and bring it under fine cultivation, and died February 14, 1861. His widow survived him ten years, dying at the age of seventy-seven years. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving under General Harrison. In early life he served as sheriff of the county in which he lived in Virginia, and while living in Hocking County, Ohio, he was Captain of the militia. In politics he was formerly an old line Whig, but in later life affiliated with the Republican party. Joseph W. Cobburn, whose name heads this sketch, was seven years old when brought by his parents to Wells County, and here he was reared on a frontier, receiving such education as could be obtained in the early subscription schools of Harrison Township. He lived with his parents until his marriage, November 10, 1853, to Miss Lou Ann Burgess, a native of Hocking County, Ohio, coming to Wells County in 1837, with her parents, John and Sarah Burgess. After his marriage he settled on his father-in-law's farm, where he resided three years, then purchased forty acres of his father's homestead, of which only six acres had been cleared. He cleared the remainder of his land, which he improved and put under good cultivation, residing on it about five years. Mrs. Cobburn died August 12, 1861, leaving a daughter, Tabitha, fourteen days old. She was the mother of four children the first three dying in infancy. November 19, 1863, Mr. Cobburn was married to Miss Mary A. Gavin, a

daughter of George and Mary Gavin. She was a native of Ireland, coming to America when six years of age, and after living in Ross County, Ohio, two years she came to Wells County, Indiana. She died in 1870, and Mr. Cobburn was again married January 13, 1877, to Miss Sarah Chalfant, a native of Wells County, and a daughter of Charles and Nancy Chalfant. To this union three children have been born—Leona, died aged one year; Mary E. and George T. In 1861 Mr. Cobburn moved to the county infirmary, taking charge of the place for four years, and in 1865 he moved to his present farm, section 26, Harrison Township, where he has 120 acres of well improved and highly cultivated land. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party.



JOHN TRAVIS, farmer, section 19, Harrison Township, was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, June 26, 1812, a son of William and Mary (Pierce) Travis. The father was a son of John Travis, who was born in England, and came to the United States previous to the Revolutionary war. The mother was a daughter of Thomas and Elsie Pierce, natives of New Jersey, and of German ancestry. Our subject was reared on a farm in Pennsylvania until eighteen years of age, when he went with his father's family to West Virginia, where he remained until he attained his majority. He was married September 11, 1833, to Miss Rachel A., daughter of John and Celia Huggins, of Greene County, Pennsylvania. After his marriage Mr. Travis worked on his farm, and also supplied steamboats plying the Ohio River with wood for a period of twenty-one years. In 1865 he came to Wells County, settling on section 19, Harrison Township,

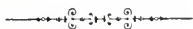
where he has since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Travis had no children, but they have reared and educated ten orphan children, three of whom came to Indiana with them. He has furnished a farm for each, and has given them sufficient means to start them well in life. He has a fine farm of 273 acres, all improved and in a good state of cultivation. Mrs. Travis died in 1879, and in 1880 Mr. Travis married Mrs. Matilda Gierwick, whose first husband was Fred Gierwick. By her first marriage there were nine children. Her father was Peter Kiser, a native of Pennsylvania, who removed to Ohio when Mrs. Travis was a child. She came to Wells County after her first marriage. Mr. Travis has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for a period of fifty-four years. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party.



 OLIVER P. JONES, one of the old and respected settlers of Wells County, residing on section 10, Jackson Township, was born in Clinton County, Ohio, February 27, 1821, a son of John and Eliza (Hendrickson) Jones. His parents were natives of Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and were married in Clinton County, Ohio, December 27, 1819, the father having been brought to that county when a boy of eleven years. He was a son of John Jones, who was a soldier during the Revolutionary war. The latter was born August 10, 1754, and was a son of Daniel Jones, the great-grandfather of our subject, who was born in 1715. Of his father's brothers, Isaac, Oliver P., Daniel and Samuel were soldiers in the war of 1812. Samuel Jones was the first white settler on the Salamonie River between the mouth of that river and the Godfrey reserva-

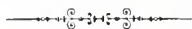
tion, and the town of Warren was laid out by him. Oliver P., our subject, grew to manhood in his native county, remaining there until February, 1845, when he came to Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, to make improvements on a farm which his father had previously bought. This land consisted of 365 acres of heavy timber, and was entirely unimproved. He rafted logs down the river to Warren, where he had them sawed at the mill, and with the lumber he built a house. He then boarded with a family which had come with him from Ohio, and that season they cleared and planted ten acres. The same fall he went back to Ohio, returning in November with his father's family, they arriving at their new home in Indiana December 4, 1845. Game was very plentiful in those days, and Mr. Jones has shot deer while standing by his own house. Wolves were very troublesome, and would frequently kill their sheep. Mr. Jones made his home with his parents until their death. The mother died August 21, 1863, the father surviving until September 6, 1883, dying at the advanced age of eighty-six years. They were the parents of two children—Oliver P. and a daughter, Elizabeth. Two years after coming to Wells County Oliver P. Jones returned to Ohio, where he was married November 25, 1847, to Miss Nancy Smithson, a native of Clinton County, Ohio, and daughter of Campbell and Sarah (Tyrell) Smithson, who were both born in the State of Virginia. Both of her grandfathers fought in the Revolutionary war. Her parents were married in their native State, and subsequently moved to Ohio and lived in Clinton and Highland counties, that State. They died in Clinton County, the mother in August, 1866, and the father in September, 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have provided a comfortable home for no less than

fifteen children, and of these the most of them they have reared from childhood. They are worthy members of Pleasant Hill Christian Church, and among the highly esteemed citizens of Jackson Township. In politics Mr. Jones is a Democrat as was also his father. Mr. Jones was one of the original stockholders in the Fort Wayne & Muncie Railroad, and in every enterprise for the advancement of his township or county he takes an active interest.



JOHAN S. CONRAD, farmer and stock-raiser, Harrison Township, is a native of Virginia, born in Harrison County, March 7, 1807, a son of John and Susan (Smith) Conrad, who were also natives of Virginia. His father died at the advanced age of ninety years. He was a son of John Conrad, who was of German descent, and lived to be one hundred years old. Our subject's maternal grandfather, John Smith, was a native of the State of Virginia, and of German ancestry. Our subject was reared to manhood on a farm in his native county, where he remained until attaining the age of twenty years. He then went to Hocking County, Ohio, and some four months later his father's family followed, and there purchased 100 acres of partially improved land. Our subject assisted his father clear and improve his 100-acre tract, he remaining with his parents until 1836, when he came to Wells County, Indiana, and entered 160 acres of Government land on section 25, Harrison Township. He then went to Noble County, and bought a tract of twenty acres of heavily timbered land, which he cleared and improved. He was married June 2, 1844, to Miss Chloe Ann May, a native of Pennsylvania, and of the six children born to this

union four yet survive—Frances W., George A., Sarah E. and Susan. Mary and Samantha are deceased. November 15, 1844, Mr. Conrad returned to his Wells County land, then a dense wilderness, and here he built a hewed-log cabin, into which he moved, and began clearing his land, and here he has since followed farming on the farm which he has owned for half a century. He is a self-made man, having by his own persevering industry and good management accumulated a competence for his declining years, and by his honorable and upright dealings has gained the confidence and respect of the entire community. In politics he is a Democrat, casting his first presidential vote at the second election of Andrew Jackson, and has since voted at every presidential election. Mrs. Conrad is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.



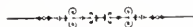
DANIEL KAIN, a pioneer of Wells County, engaged in general farming in Chester Township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Westmoreland County, July 31, 1832, his parents, John and Mary (Chain) Kain, who were also natives of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and of Irish descent. In 1838 the family removed by team to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, remaining there twelve years, and in 1850 came by team from Tuscarawas to Wells County, Indiana, and located on 160 acres of land in Union Township. This land was entered by a land warrant, received by John Kain for his services during the Mexican war. It was entirely unimproved, and a space had to be cleared in the woods before their log cabin could be built. The first night the family occupied the cabin only half the roof had been put on. The father was a man of

indomitable energy, and by his persevering industry soon converted his wild land into well cultivated fields, living there until his death, which occurred in February, 1883. His wife died about two years previous. Daniel Kain was eighteen years of age when he came with his father's family to Wells County, and here he has since lived with the exception of the time spent in the service of his country during the war of the Rebellion. He was united in marriage October 25, 1857, to Miss Rebecca M. Heckman, a native of Stark County, Ohio. Of the eleven children born to this union nine yet survive—Mary Jane, wife of John R. Newman; Sarah E., wife of Wesley Reading, of Huntington County; Fannie, wife of Palmer Reading; Melinda, wife of Samuel Penrod; Frank and William (twins), the latter married to Ella Lowdermilk; Martha, Rosa and Cora. John and George (twins) are deceased. August 15, 1862, Mr. Kain enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, and rendezvoused at Wabash, and from there went to Indianapolis, thence to Cincinnati and Covington, Ohio, and from there to Nashville, where his company was assigned to the Fourteenth Army Corps under General Thomas. Mr. Kain participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and was with Sherman in the Georgia campaign to Atlanta, and at the siege and capture of Atlanta. He was with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea, and through the Carolinas to Washington, where he participated in the grand review of Sherman's army. From Washington he went to Parkersburg, West Virginia, thence by steamboat to Louisville, Kentucky, and from there by rail to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he received his discharge. During his whole term of service he was never out of the ranks, serving in every battle in which his regiment

and company participated. He with two other soldiers was captured at the picket line at the close of the battle of Chickamauga, but after a couple of hours made his escape by running away, telling the rebels to shoot, and disappeared amid a shower of bullets. The other two were taken to Andersonville prison, where they were starved to death.

DANIEL JONES, farmer, Nottingham Township, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, June 12, 1831, son of John and Mary (Foster) Jones. His father was a native of Maryland, and a farmer by occupation; the mother was a native of New York. The family removed from Wayne County to that part of Medina County that afterward became Summit County. After the close of the civil war the parents came to this county, where the father died in March, 1868. The mother afterward returned to Summit County, Ohio, where she now resides at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Daniel was but a year old when the family removed to Summit County, and there he was reared to manhood. In 1852 he came to Wells County, and commenced working at the carpenter and joiner's trade, an occupation he followed until 1877, since which time he has given his entire attention to farming. He purchased his present farm of seventy-five acres in 1865. February 5, 1857, he was married to Miss Nancy Jane Gracy, a native of Fayette County, Ohio, and daughter of Samuel and Rachel (Shiveley) Gracy, who are now deceased. To this union were born four children, of whom two are deceased—Mary Ellen and John Preston; the living are Harvey A. and Daniel. December 20, 1863, Mr. Jones volunteered in the service of the Union, and at Kokomo, Indiana, was assigned

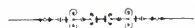
to Company F, One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Infantry, under Colonel Parish. From Kokomo they went to Louisville, Kentucky, where they camped out two weeks, where his regiment became a part of General Hovey's division of the Twenty-third Army Corps under General Schofield, Corps Commander, Army of the Ohio. From Louisville he went to Nashville, thence to Charleston, Tennessee, then marched to the front and joined the main army at Buzzard's Roost, near Dalton, Georgia, on the 5th of May, 1864, in time to take part in the campaign which commenced the next day. He was with Sherman through to Jonesboro, Tennessee, and after the fall of Atlanta his command was sent, under Thomas, after Hood. Mr. Jones was with his regiment through all that chase. He was in the battles of Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Georgia, Allatoona, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Franklin, and at the two-days battle of Nashville. He was honorably discharged June 20, 1865. After the pursuit of Hood he was taken sick with typhoid fever, and went to the hospital at Jeffersonville, Indiana. Previous to the war he was a Democrat, but since that time he has been a Republican. His first presidential vote was cast for Franklin Pierce. He is a member of *Lew. Daily Post*, G. A. R., at Bluffton. At Allatoona he was promoted to Second Duty Sergeant, for meritorious conduct, his commission dating June 1, 1864.



JOHAN N. LUSK, one of the self-made men of Wells County, residing in Lancaster Township, on section 31, was born in Butler County, Ohio, May 12, 1829, a son of James and Julia A. (Beeler) Lusk, natives of Tennessee and Virginia respectively. They were married in Ohio, and to them were born

three children, of whom John N. is the only one living. When he was a child his father died in Ohio, and his mother subsequently married Rev. D. H. Drummond, who died in Harrison Township, Wells County, about the year 1870. The mother now lives in Bluffton with Mrs. Ann Eliza Crosby, a daughter by her last marriage. John N. Lusk, the subject of this sketch, was reared, after his father's death, by his maternal uncle, C. C. Beeler, in Union County, Indiana, his youth being spent in assisting his uncle on the farm and in attending school, receiving such education as the district schools of that early day afforded. At the age of twenty-one years he became his own master and began to do for himself, commencing with no capital but strong hands, industrious habits and a determination to succeed. A few years after reaching his majority he visited Wells County and purchased 160 acres of heavily-timbered land on section 31, Lancaster Township, although he did not make his home in the county until several years later. He did some chopping on his land, and sold it a few years later, but subsequently purchased eighty acres in the same section, upon which his residence and farm buildings now stand. Mr. Lusk was married January 24, 1861, to Miss Mary Jane Robinson, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Alexander and Deborah Robinson. She died February 17, 1862, leaving one son named David Robinson, who died at the age of two years. For his second wife Mr. Lusk married Miss Martha E. Routh, August 23, 1866. She was born in Wayne County, Indiana, September 27, 1846, a daughter of John R. and Louisa Routh, who were natives of Ohio and North Carolina respectively. Her parents settled on section 29, Lancaster Township, in 1856, and improved a farm from the wilderness, where the father died in March, 1877. The mother

now lives in Bluffton. They were the parents of eight children, of whom seven are yet living, Mrs. Lusk being the third child and eldest daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Lusk have two children, named Mary Jane and Charles R. After his first marriage Mr. Lusk settled on his parents' farm in Lancaster Township. He bought back eighty acres of his original purchase in Wells County, which makes the 160-acre farm he now owns, this being one of the best quarter sections in the township where he resides. He has 100 acres of his land well improved and under cultivation, the remaining sixty acres being reserved for timber. He is one of the active, progressive men of Lancaster Township, and is always interested in any movement for advancing public good.



ERASTUS BASCOMB McDOWELL, Recorder of Wells County, Indiana, was born in Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, the date of his birth being September 21, 1847. His parents, George and Eliza (Henning) McDowell, were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively, the father of Scotch-Irish origin, and the mother of German parentage. They were the parents of eight children—Erastus B., our subject; Thomas J., of Bluffton; Kate, wife of Warren Tappy, of Muncie, Indiana; Engenia, wife of T. W. Barton, of Bluffton; Douglas E., of Ness City, Kansas; David, of Bluffton, and two who died in infancy. The father came with his family to Wells County, Indiana, locating at Bluffton in 1848, and opened the first drug store of the place. He carried on the drug business about eight years, after which he was engaged in no particular business for a time. In his political affiliations

he was a staunch Democrat. In October, 1851, he was elected a member of the Lower House of the Indiana State Legislature, to represent Wells County, being a member of the first Legislature after the adoption of the new State constitution. In 1856 he was elected clerk of Wells County for a term of four years. In 1868 he was again elected and served one term as a Representative in the Indiana State Legislature. In 1870 he received the appointment of steward of the Northern Indiana Prison at Michigan City by its directors, and served as such until 1872. In 1876, the Democratic party again coming into power, he was again appointed steward of the Northern Indiana Prison, which position he held until his death, which occurred February 14, 1878, at the age of sixty-two years. Mrs. McDowell died at Bluffton in 1876, at the age of fifty-three years. She was a member of the Universalist church at Bluffton. Erastus B. McDowell, whose name heads this sketch, was but an infant when brought to Wells County by his parents, and here he was reared and educated in the public and high schools of Bluffton. At the age of sixteen years he began learning the painter's trade, which he followed at Bluffton for twelve years, after which he was variously employed until 1883. He was united in marriage at Bluffton, March 9, 1871, to Elizabeth J. Wilhelm, a daughter of Simon and Mary (Willis) Wilhelm, former residents of Hancock County, Ohio. They have four children—George B., James E., Homer Lee and Harry Tombs. In November, 1883, Mr. McDowell became recorder of Wells County, having been elected to that office in November, 1882. During 1881-'83 he was chief of the Bluffton Fire Department, and in 1882 was State statistician of the Indiana State Fireman's Association. Mr. McDowell is a member of Bluffton

Lodge, No. 138, K. of H. He is an attendant and his wife is a member of the Universalist church at Bluffton.

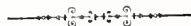
JACOB GETTY, proprietor of the Ossian House at Ossian, was born in Stark County, Ohio, in 1834, son of William H. and Melinda (Swinehart) Getty. When he was four years of age his mother died, and he was reared by J. G. Smith, residing in Wayne County, Ohio, near the Western Reserve. In 1855 he came west and located in this county, where he began farming, continuing in that avocation until his marriage and the breaking out of the civil war. The wedding of Jacob Getty and Miss Mary, daughter of Peter and Jane (Fergus) Shaffer, was celebrated April 2, 1860. Their first daughter, Lida, was but one year old when the cry "To arms!" was sounded, and Mr. Getty, full of patriotism, left his wife and child and hastened to the defense of his country's flag. His enlistment was made August 20, 1862, in Company G, One Hundred and First Regiment Indiana Infantry, and his regiment was assigned to duty in the Fourteenth Corps, Third Division of the Army of the Cumberland. Mr. Getty was in active service during the entire campaign, and participated in the battles of Milton, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, Resaca, with Sherman to the sea, and faced the shot and shell at Rocky Face and Bentonville, North Carolina. He returned to his home at the close of the war unscathed, but with a consciousness of having fought nobly and well. Rachel A. was born a few months after her father's enlistment, and the home of the parents has been brightened by their presence until the present time. Both daughters are graduates of the Fort Wayne Conservatory

of Music, and are now engaged in teaching that art. Soon after his return from the war Mr. Getty purchased his present hotel, and for more than a score of years he has been the popular landlord and liveryman of Ossian. Since the war he has grown corpulent, and now enjoys the distinction of being the heaviest man in Wells County, bringing down the scales at 300 pounds. Politically he is a strong Republican, and is a member of William Swain Post, No. 169, G. A. R., of which he is one of the charter members. In 1869 he was made a Master Mason at Ossian, and became a member of Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M. Peter Shaffer, father of Mrs. Getty, was one of the early settlers of this county, and entered 200 acres of land on section 10, intending to make this new country his home. He made some improvements and returned to Ohio for his family, but was taken sick and died. His wife and family, consisting of Mary, William F. and Rachel A., accompanied by General James Fergus, came to the new home and took possession of the land entered by Mr. Shaffer, thus carrying out his intention. General James Fergus was a noted man in the State of Ohio, having been a member of the General Assembly two terms previous to coming to this State, and his popularity was as widespread as was his acquaintance.

JAMES B. PLESSINGER was born near Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, September 7, 1837, a son of John and Elizabeth (Thompson) Plessinger, his father a native of Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and his mother of Chillicothe, Ohio, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. In 1842 his parents located in Bluffton, where the father died in 1875, aged sixty-one years, and his mother

in June, 1879, aged sixty-seven years. They had a family of six children, three of whom are living—James B., Benjamin F. and Sarah Adaline, wife of Charles Gary, of Fort Wayne. From his fifth year James B. Plessinger was reared in Bluffton, obtaining his education in the public school. When fourteen years old he began clerking for Heilebroner Brothers, remaining with them six years, and was then employed a short time in the store of S. Oppenheimer, when, in 1861, he enlisted in the Union army as a musician, and was assigned to Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and served two years, in the meantime being promoted to Principal Musician of the regiment. He was with the regiment at the battles at New Madrid, Riddle's Point, Island No. 10, Tiptonville, Fort Pillow and Memphis and numerous skirmishes. He was discharged, on account of disability, March 10, 1863, at Hospital No. 5, St. Louis, Missouri, after a sickness of five months. He then returned to Bluffton, and as soon as he regained his health again entered into the employ of S. Oppenheimer, with whom he remained until January, 1865, when he embarked in the grocery business, which he continued until 1876, when he was elected on the Democratic ticket sheriff of Wells County, and was re-elected in 1878, and since 1880 he has been engaged in general trading. Mr. Plessinger has been an Odd Fellow twenty-five years, and is a member of both lodge and encampment at Bluffton, and has passed all the chairs in each, serving now his fifth term as chief patriarch of the encampment. He has frequently represented both lodge and encampment in the grand bodies of the State. He is a comrade of Lewis Daily Post, No. 33, G. A. R., and is a past commander. In 1879 he was one of the principal organizers of the Bluffton Fire Department, and for seven years has been chief engineer. May

13, 1864, he was married at Bluffton to Martha Kellogg, a daughter of Nelson and Rachel (Wiley) Kellogg. To them have been born six children—Laurence K., a telegraph operator at Marion, Ohio; Charles H., telegraph operator at Bluffton; Fred, Augustus N., Bessie, Louise and Carrie, at home.



RANNALS WALSER, one of the prominent citizens of Wells County, is a native of Indiana, born in Dearborn County February 7, 1825, his parents, Mark and Sally (Gray) Walser, being natives of North Carolina and Indiana respectively. The father came to Indiana when a lad, and his first land purchase was in Dearborn County, where he was married, making his home in that county until 1852. He then removed to Missouri, and made that State his home until his death, which occurred in February, 1885. His widow still survives, and is now residing in Dakota. Rannals Walser, the subject of this sketch, remained with his parents until attaining his majority, being reared to the avocation of a farmer. On leaving the parental roof he went to Ohio, where he worked as a farm hand for two years. He was united in marriage August 8, 1848, to Miss Cynthia Ann Anderson, a daughter of John and Margaret Anderson, and to this union were born ten children—Lafayette P., Ellen Maria, John Anderson, Sarah Margaret, Warren Perry, Harrison Waymore, Lewis Sellers, Mary Elizabeth, Erick D., and Oscar Elsworth (deceased). After his marriage Mr. Walser rented land in Ohio, in which State he followed farming until the fall of 1854, when he came with his family, then consisting of wife and four children, to Wells County, Indiana, and located on his present farm, which he had pre-



Ramuals Walsen

viously purchased. From a tract of 160 acres of dense timber he has made one of the best farms in the county, having by his persevering industry cleared his land and put it under fine cultivation, and to his original purchase he has added to his home farm 240 acres, making his landed estate 400 acres. Mr. Walser was bereaved by the death of his wife February 23, 1887, who left a devoted husband, an affectionate family and a host of friends to mourn her loss. Mr. Walser is classed among the public-spirited men of Wells County, and in every enterprise for the public welfare, or the advancement of his township or county, he takes an active interest. In his political views he affiliates with the Democratic party. He has served seven years as township trustee, and in 1874 was appointed to the office of land appraiser of his township. He is a member of the Christian church at Buena Vista, his wife having been a member of the same church until her death. Mr. Walser lives a retired life, having rented his property to his boys.

CYRUS S. MARSH, farmer, Washington Township, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, February 28, 1837, son of Alexander and Margaret (Stanley) Marsh, the former a native of Coshocton County, Ohio, and the latter of Virginia. In 1852 the family removed to Indiana and located in Nottingham Township, this county, where the father died the same year. The mother now resides in Bluffton. Our subject was reared to the age of fifteen years in his native county, and has followed farming ever since coming to Wells County. He has owned his present farm, consisting of eighty acres of land, since 1879. He was married in this county, April 8, 1859, to Miss Nancy Heller,

born in Wells County, whose parents came from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and both parents died in this county in 1884. To this union were born fourteen children, of whom two, Oliver and Noah, are deceased. Those living are—John Wesley, justice of the peace of Nottingham Township; George Washington, William Alexander; Eliza Ann, wife of Dan Bashaw, residing in Allen County; Amanda, wife of William R. Schooley; Jacob, of Salina, Ohio; Emma E., wife of Jacob Reinhardt, residing in Blackford County; Mary C., Lewis Edwin, Fred Lee, Elmer and Nora Alice. Politically Mr. Marsh is a Democrat, and has held the office of constable. He is a member of the Lutheran church, as is also his wife, and he served as elder in that church for several years.

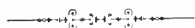
JOHN R. DAVIS is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in the village of Murray, March 31, 1839, his parents, William P. and Lucinda (Riebey) Davis, being early pioneers of the county. The father being a farmer, our subject was reared to the same avocation, remaining on the home farm until his marriage. He was united in marriage June 23, 1864, to Miss Catherine Falk, a daughter of Albert and Catherine Falk, who were of German birth, both coming from Hesse, Germany, to America before their marriage. They were married in Richland County, Ohio, and in 1849 settled in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, where both died, the mother dying in 1856, and the father March 8, 1880. Two of their sons, John and Peter, live in Bluffton; three sons, Jacob, Joseph and Henry, reside in Rock Creek Township; William lives in Kansas; their daughter Mary is married and lives in Kansas; Mrs.

Davis is the third child, and was born in Richland County, Ohio, June 5, 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are the parents of two sons, promising young men—William H., who was born April 20, 1865, is a school-teacher, and George E., who was born May 29, 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Davis still occupy the home on section 30, Lancaster Township, where they settled after their marriage. The homestead contains ninety acres of well improved and well cultivated land. His land is thoroughly drained, having 1,400 rods of tile drainage, making it one of the most productive farms in his township. William P. Davis, the father of our subject, was born in Tennessee, a son of George and Susan (Miller) Davis. When he was ten years old he was brought with his father's family to Indiana, and lived in Union and Henry counties until coming to Wells County. He was married in Henry County, in 1834, to Lucinda Richey, a native of Butler County, Ohio, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Richey, who were formerly from New Jersey. Their eight children were as follows—Leander P., of Union Township; Milton M., living on the homestead on section 30; John R., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Juliette Scotton; George W.; Mrs. Maria Bulger, a widow living in Lancaster Township; Mrs. Ammert I. Bulger, and Marcus, the youngest child, who died in 1861, aged seven years. The parents came to Wells County in 1837, settling in the then wilderness on the present site of Murray among the first six families. William P. Davis was not an ambitious man, as far as acquiring property was concerned, looking only to actual needs for the present, which he always amply provided. He built and made some improvements on section 19, where he owned eighty acres, now the residence property of Rev. J. J. Markley. This was his second home in the county. From

there he removed back to Murray in 1852, buying sixty acres of timber land on the southeast part of section 30. There he made his home till near the end of his life. During the last year of his life he lived on a small property near Bluffton, but within the limits of Lancaster Township, dying there in August, 1883, at the age of seventy-one years. His widow still resides on this property, enjoying the respect and esteem of all who know her.

JOHN K. MOSSY, farmer and stock-raiser, Rock Creek Township, was born on the farm where he now resides, February 24, 1845, a son of William and Mary (Kirkpatrick) Mossy. The father was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1821, a son of William Mossy, and was reared to manhood on a farm in his native country. He immigrated to America in 1840, and after living two years in Ohio he came to Wells County, Indiana, and entered eighty acres of Government land. He then returned to Ohio and was married to Miss Mary Kirkpatrick, who was also a native of Ireland, and a daughter of John and Ann Kirkpatrick. To them were born six children, of whom only two are now living—John K., our subject, and Mary, wife of Dr. George Fulton of Bluffton. Their son Robert D. was killed by the ears, and three children died in childhood. In the fall of 1844 the father removed to his frontier farm in Wells County and erected a cabin into which he moved his family. He began clearing his farm, and by hard work and persevering industry he improved his land and brought it under good cultivation. He added to his original purchase until he had 397 acres, a large portion of which was cleared and improved by himself, and also town prop-

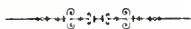
erty, at his death being worth \$20,000, which he acquired by his own efforts, all being won by fair and honorable dealings. He died September 2, 1880, his widow surviving until May 15, 1885. Both were members of the Presbyterian church, and were respected by all who knew them. In politics he was a Republican. John K. Mossy, whose name heads this sketch, was reared on the home farm in his native county, where he attended the common schools, and completed his education at Poland Academy at Poland, Ohio. He remained with his parents until their death, when he came into possession of the old homestead, and where he still resides. He was united in marriage July 4, 1872, to Miss Emeline Quaakenbush, a native of Wells County, and a daughter of William and Phoebe Quaakenbush, and to this union have been born seven children—William Wilson, Mary Elizabeth, John Donaldson, Thomas Jefferson, Jennie May, Phoebe Anna and one who died in infancy. In connection with his farming pursuits Mr. Mossy has taught school, teaching during the winter terms for eight years, in which he has met with good success. He is the owner of a fine farm of 269 acres, and is classed among the well-to-do citizens of his township. In his political views he affiliates with the Republican party. He and his wife are worthy members of the Presbyterian church.



ROBERT L. SEATON, postmaster at Ossian, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, June 2, 1843, son of Robert and Rachel (Liggett) Seaton. The father was born in Antrim, Ireland, in 1799, and immigrated to America in 1818, settling near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In that city he married Miss Rachel, daughter of Alexander and Nancy (McNeal) Liggett, who resided in

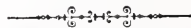
Cecil County, Maryland. Her father was born in Scotland, but was one of those persecuted men who determined to help free Ireland, and was forced by King George to flee from the realm. He was married in Ireland, but was forced to leave his wife behind, barely escaping with his own life, and that through the assistance of a friend who furnished the means to defray expenses. His wife afterward came to America, and they settled in Maryland. Later they removed to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The mother of Robert L. was the fourth child of this couple. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Seaton had six children—Alexander (deceased), Jane, John, Mary, Margaret and Robert L., our subject. The family settled in Carroll County, Ohio, in 1826, and in 1866 emigrated to Allen County, Indiana. They made a final location at Ossian in 1874, and two years later the mother died at the ripe old age of seventy-six years. In 1879 the death of the father occurred. His son John was a private in Company I, Fortieth Ohio Infantry, enlisting in August, 1863, and was discharged at the close of the war. His regiment was a part of the Army of the Cumberland. At the battle of Chickamanga he received a wound, and while at the front, at Kenesaw Mountain, a rebel bullet disabled him for several months. In 1873, at Zanesville, Indiana, Mr. Seaton was married to Martha J., daughter of Evan and Eliza (Johnson) Bell. Her father was a native of North Carolina, and his marriage took place in Rush County, Indiana. To this union four children have been born, three of whom are living—Mary, Martha and William. Mr. Seaton settled in Ossian one year after his marriage, and two years later engaged in the mercantile trade, continuing in business until the present time. His character and ability made him the choice of his party in this township for postmaster, and he received

his appointment September 4, 1885, and his courtesy has made him popular in this position. Mr. and Mrs. Seaton have had four children—William D., John E., Mary B. and Rolla F.; the latter is deceased. Mr. Seaton was made a Mason in Union Lodge, No. 333, Jefferson County, Ohio, in 1866, and is now a member of Ossian Lodge, No. 297, A. F. & A. M., and a member of Bluffton Chapter, No. 145, R. A. M.



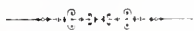
JAMES D. GOODIN, general farmer, Chester Township, is a native of Ohio, born in that part of Delaware County which is now part of Morrow County, March 17, 1836. His parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Donaldson) Goodin, were natives of Pennsylvania, the father born in Somerset County, of Welsh descent, and the mother born in Washington County, of Irish ancestry. The families of both parents removed from their homes in Pennsylvania to Perry County, Ohio, in an early day, and there Samuel Goodin and Elizabeth Donaldson were married, and in the fall of 1835 they removed to what is now Morrow County, Ohio, where the father died April 24, 1854. In the spring of 1855 Mrs. Goodin removed with her family to Allen County, Indiana, and in February, 1858, came to Wells County, locating in Chester Township, where the mother resided until her death in the fall of 1880. James D. Goodin, the subject of this sketch, was reared and educated in the common schools of Morrow County, Ohio. He was twenty-one years of age when he came with his father's family to Wells County, and here he has since made his home with the exception of one year. Mr. Goodin has been twice married, taking for his first wife Miss Naney Twibell, in October, 1860. She was born in

Blackford County, Indiana, a daughter of David and Margaret Twibell. She died in February, 1872. Five children were born to this union—Madison, Elizabeth (wife of T. J. McGrath), Nettie, Ella and one who died in infancy. Mr. Goodin was married a second time, November 13, 1873, to Miss Ollie Ashbaugh, a native of Logan County, Ohio, and daughter of Andrew and Martha Ashbaugh, the father dying in Logan County, and the mother in Wells County, Indiana. One son, named James Lawrence, has been born to this union. Since 1872 Mr. Goodin has been engaged quite extensively in dealing in and raising stock in connection with his general farming. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party. In the spring of 1865 he was elected justice of the peace of Chester Township, which office he filled for four years, and in 1869 he was elected trustee of Chester Township, serving in that capacity until the fall of 1872. In the fall of 1873 he was elected and served as county commissioner for three years, and in all of these offices he served with credit to himself and to the best interests of his township or county. He is a member of Montpelier Lodge, No. 288, A. F. & A. M., and also belongs to Five Points Grange, No. 522, Patrons of Husbandry, and is at present serving as master of the grange.



JONATHAN BENDER, farmer and stock-raiser, Harrison Township, was born in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, October 21, 1854, youngest son of John and Barbara (Mast) Bender. The father was a native of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, son of John Bender, also a native of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. The mother was born in Pennsylvania, and was also mar-

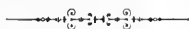
ried in that State in 1850. They removed to this county, where Mr. Bender purchased an improved farm in Rock Creek Township. The first year he followed milling, and the next year he followed teaming. He then engaged in farming until 1879, when he removed to Bluffton, and in July of that year the father died. They were the parents of eleven children, six of whom are living. The mother is still living in Bluffton, and is a devoted member of the Lutheran church. Politically Mr. Bender was a Democrat. Our subject was reared on a farm, and remained with his parents until he was of age. He was married August 12, 1875, to Miss Amanda E. Staver, daughter of Jonathan and Minerva (Hoops) Staver, who came from Ohio, and of German ancestry. Mrs. Bender was born in Rock Creek Township, this county. After their marriage they rented a farm until 1881, when he purchased his present farm, containing eighty acres of improved land, on section 6, Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Bender have had four children—Bessie Zenora, Lawrence L., Virgie O., and Advantie N., who died at the age of two years. Mr. Bender is a member of the Christian church, and Mrs. Bender of the Lutheran church. Politically he is a Democrat.



JACOB MINNICH, one of the old and honored pioneers of Wells County, residing on section 2, Jackson Township, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, July 24, 1814, a son of Peter and Magdalena (Garver) Minnich. The father was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and when a boy went with his parents to Rockingham County, Virginia, where he grew to manhood, and was there married to Barbara Myers. After his marriage he removed to Clarke County, Ohio,

where his wife died. He was subsequently married to Miss Magdalena Garver, a native of Pennsylvania. They lived in Clarke County until their death, the father dying January, 1814. His widow was again married some seven years later, and died about the year 1861. Jacob Minnich, the subject of this sketch, was reared to manhood in his native county, where he was married January 29, 1835, to Miss Christiana Ebersole, who was born in Clarke County, Ohio, a daughter of Jacob and Salome (Keller) Ebersole, natives of Pennsylvania. They removed to Clarke County from Rockingham County, Virginia, where they resided until their death. In 1841 Mr. and Mrs. Minnich packed their household effects and came by team to Indiana, locating on a tract of 160 acres in Jackson Township, Wells County, which Mr. Minnich had entered in 1836. The spring prior to his removal he had come here and cleared a small part of his land and built a cabin for his family. Game was then abundant. There was a corn-cracker at Warren, but they were obliged to go long distances to mill, especially when the water was low. Salt ranged in price from \$10 to \$13 a barrel until the canal was put through, when they had to go to Huntington for it. Mrs. Minnich died in 1855, leaving at her death six children—Sallie married George E. Herrold, and is now deceased; John, residing in Jackson Township; Phoebe, wife of Peter Wright, of Bartholomew County; Mary, wife of Madison Irwin a merchant at Warren, Indiana; Peter, residing in Jackson Township, and Michael, living on the old homestead. Mr. Minnich was again married in March, 1856, to Mrs. Annie (Wright) Hamilton, widow of Alexander Hamilton. She is also deceased, her death taking place in March, 1885. Mr. Minnich has been identified with the interests of Wells County nearly a half

century, and has seen it change from a state of nature into its present prosperous condition, scattered over with thriving towns and villages, and well cultivated farms. He early took an interest in the religious advancement of his neighborhood, and although there was then no regular organized congregation, services were often held at his house. The roads in the county were very bad at that time, and even the road used by the whole settlement, going toward Huntington, was often in a terrible condition, and at such times it would take about three days to make the trip to Huntington and return. Mr. Minnich is now surrounded by all the necessary comforts of life, which he has gained by years of persevering toil and energy.



MICHAEL OLDFATHER, farmer and stock-raiser, section 15, Rock Creek Township, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, the date of his birth being February 6, 1826. His parents, John and Susannah (Foutz) Oldfather, were natives of the State of Pennsylvania, the father born in Allegheny County, coming with his father, Henry Oldfather, to Ohio when he was twelve years old. The mother of our subject was a daughter of Michael Foutz, who removed from Carolina to Pennsylvania in an early day. Michael Oldfather, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm and in a saw and grist-mill, which occupation his father followed. He remained with his parents until attaining the age of twenty-four years, when he was married January 9, 1851, to Miss Lydia Albert, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John and Susannah (Heasinger) Albert, and to this union were born seven children—Allen (died aged twen-

ty-five years), Louisa, Emma B., Laura E., Susan E. (deceased), Lucy A. (deceased), and Mary E. Mrs. Oldfather died April 17, 1870, and November 26, 1873, Mr. Oldfather married Miss Fannie A. Brown, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and when four years old was brought by her parents, James and Nancy Brown, to Wells County, Indiana, where she was reared. One son, named John Thomas, has been born to this union. In 1853 Mr. Oldfather came to Wells County and purchased his present farm, which then consisted of eighty acres, partially improved, and to this he subsequently added forty acres. Since coming to Wells County he has followed agricultural pursuits successfully, and his farm is now well improved and under fine cultivation. He is classed among the self-made men of the county, having by his own efforts acquired his present fine property and gained a competence for his declining years. He and his wife are members of the Reformed church. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party. James Brown, the father of Mrs. Oldfather, was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, born in 1791, where he grew to manhood on a farm. He was married in 1827 to Miss Nancy Wallace, a daughter of James and Nancy Wallace, and to them were born five children—Thomas (deceased), Fanny A., wife of Michael Oldfather, Mathew (deceased), James (deceased) and Catherine, wife of John Gorden. In 1832 Mr. Brown sailed with his family for America, and after an ocean voyage of eight weeks and three days, landed in Philadelphia, where Mr. Brown found employment, remaining in that city five years. From there they went to Northampton County, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Brown died April 9, 1842, leaving a widow and four children. In 1843 Mrs. Brown came with her family to Wells County, and settled in Rock Creek Township, where she made her home with



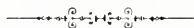
*Yours Truly Fred W. Rinehart
John R. Rinehart*

her brother. She is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Oldfather, and although eighty-four years old, is still hale and hearty.

JOHN KAIN RINEHART, attorney at law at Bluffton, was born in the village of Ragersville, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, December 15, 1841. He is a son of David and Mary A. (Kain) Rinehart. His father was a native of Washington County, Pennsylvania, of German ancestry, and was by occupation a farmer. His mother was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, of Irish ancestry. When young her parents removed to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, where she was reared to womanhood, receiving her education principally at Beatty's Academy at Steubenville, Ohio. In 1850 the family removed to Wells County, Indiana, and settled in Union Township. They were the parents of six children, of whom four are now living, viz.—James Allen, now engaged in farming near Oskaloosa, Iowa. He was a member of Company H, Seventy-fifth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and served some time as an orderly for General Joseph J. Reynolds, and remained in the service till the close of the war. John K., our subject; Daniel K., a manufacturer of Bluffton, and Josephus C., who resides on the old homestead in Union Township. The mother died in Cincinnati, Ohio, while being treated for cancer, on the 27th day of July, 1882, at the age of sixty-five years. The father died at his home in Union Township December 22, 1885, aged nearly seventy years. Father and mother Rinehart were earnest and devoted members of the Christian church, and died loved and revered by all who knew them. Mr. Rinehart was reared a farmer, and until attaining the age of eighteen years attended the district schools,

after which he attended the high school at Fort Wayne and the academy at Roanoke. From 1862 to 1869 he was engaged at Roanoke, Zanesville and Delphi, Indiana, as merchant's clerk, and in teaching in the schools of Wells and Huntington counties. In the spring of 1869 he began the study of law in the office of Hon. Henry B. Saylor, of Huntington, Indiana, and was admitted to the bar at that place in 1870. In the same year he entered the law department of the University of Indiana, at Bloomington, and was graduated therefrom in April, 1871, and in July of the same year he began the practice of his profession in Bluffton with Jacob J. Todd, with whom he was associated under the firm name of Todd & Rinehart until 1877, when the partnership was dissolved. He then practiced alone until 1879, when he formed a partnership with Homer L. Martin, the firm of Rinehart & Martin continuing until 1881, when Mr. Martin went to Texas. Mr. Rinehart then practiced law with Edwin C. Vaughn until 1883, when he accepted the position of deputy clerk of the Wells Circuit Court, which position he now holds. October 30, 1873, John K. Rinehart was married to Miss Martha J. Gregg, of Rock Creek Township, who died April 4, 1880, leaving one son, Fred Maynard Rinehart, born October 27, 1874. Two of their children died in infancy. She was a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Rinehart was again married December 9, 1884, to Miss Serelda A. Anthony, of Union Township. She died November 13, 1885. Their only child died in infancy. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Rinehart affiliates with the Democratic party. In 1872 he was elected a trustee of the public schools of Bluffton, served for a term of three years, was again elected to the same position in 1880 and served two years, when he re-

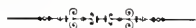
signed. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Rinehart is a man of intelligence, is well read in his profession and in general literature, and is an efficient, painstaking, honest official. Fred Maynard is a bright, intelligent boy. In the past few years death has laid a heavy hand upon the family of our subject. His father and mother, both his companions and three children have been called away, leaving Fred M., his much loved son, as the only remaining member of his family. His hope and faith center in his boy and his life is devoted to his comfort, education and well being. Mr. Rinehart and son are inseparable companions.



JACOB MILLER, one of the old and honored pioneers of Wells County, and a respected citizen of Lancaster Township, was born in York County, Pennsylvania, February 8, 1814, his parents, Frederick and Susan Miller, being natives of the same county, and of German descent. They were the parents of nine sons and five daughters, all of whom grew to maturity and reared families of their own. Ten of the children are yet living—Michael, living at Bluffton; Jacob; William, of Rock Creek Township; Samuel, a resident of Neosho, Neosho County, Kansas; Benjamin, of Montgomery County, Kansas; George, of Fairfield County, Ohio. Three widowed daughters, Mrs. Lena Fisher, Mrs. Catherine Weist, and Mrs. Eliza Wagner, live in Fairfield County, Ohio, and Mrs. Mary Ann Stimmer lives in Franklin County. Of those deceased, John, Charles and Susan died in Wells County, Indiana, and Henry died in Ohio. When our subject was eleven years old the parents removed with their family to Baltimore County, Maryland, and four years later to Fairfield County, Ohio,

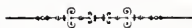
where they spent the remainder of their life. Jacob Miller was their third son and fifth child. He was reared to the avocation of a farmer, receiving such education as the subscription schools of that early day afforded. He resided on the home farm until twenty-three years of age. He was united in marriage October 14, 1841, in Wells County, to Miss Mary A. Sutton, who was born in Licking County, Ohio, March 8, 1822, a daughter of Rev. Elijah and Diana (Bowel) Sutton, the mother dying when Mrs. Miller was a child. The father of Mrs. Miller was one of the pioneers of Wells County, settling in Lancaster Township in 1839, where he died ten or twelve years later. He was a minister of the Regular Baptist church. Of the eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller ten still survive—Benjamin, living at Banner City; Diana, wife of James Park, of Bluffton; Elijah, of Lancaster Township; Catherine, a school-teacher, living at home with her parents; Nancy, wife of Jonathan Brown, of Bluffton; Charles, of Bluffton; Jesse, at home; J. Miles, living at Banner City; Josina, at home, and Letta, engaged in teaching school. A son, John, died at the age of two years. Eight of the ten children have been or are now engaged in teaching school. After his marriage Mr. Miller settled where he now lives on section 17, Lancaster Township, his first home being a rude log cabin. He felled the first tree on his land, and one of the first orchards in the county was planted by him. He came to the county without capital but by persevering industry and good management, assisted by his noble wife, he has prospered in his agricultural pursuits and they are now surrounded with all the necessary comforts of life, enjoying the fruits of a well-spent life. Mr. Miller is suffering from a fractured hip, the result of an accident August 14, 1884, other-

wise he feels as well as at any time in many years. Mr. Miller has been identified with Wells County since 1838. He had visited the county two years previous, and in that year, 1836, his father had bought 320 acres of timber land in Harrison Township, but never occupied it. In politics Mr. Miller has always affiliated with the Democratic party, casting his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren in 1836.



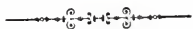
MRS. DR. CROUSE.—The history of men, great in the day in which they lived, is always read with interest; but their virtues shine with greater splendor when those with whom the departed were upon the most endearing terms of friendship yet live. The lady whose name heads this sketch was the amiable wife of one of the pioneer physicians of this county, and, although his second wife, was for nearly a quarter of a century a loving and devoted helpmeet, and cheerfully shared with him the successes and cares which come to those who have the care of a family. She was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, daughter of Robert G. and Lucy G. (Whitfield) Rodgers, who afterward removed to Paulding County. Mary A. formed the acquaintance of Dr. Crouse through his sister, Mrs. Porter, and the acquaintance thus formed ripened into love, and they were married July 20, 1860, at the home of her parents. They came directly to his home at Ossian, where they resided happily nearly a quarter of a century. Dr. Jehu W. Crouse was born in Cuyahoga County, Pennsylvania, and had been in practice at least ten years before locating at Ossian in 1849. He was married to Mary Old, in Ohio, and three children were born in that State. Her father, Isaac Old, was

one of the first settlers of the neighborhood in which they resided. The ancestors of our subject were residents of Southampton County, Virginia, but the father was born in Scotland. The grandfather, John Whittfield, and his wife, Mary, were of an ancient family, possessed a large plantation and owned many slaves. They lived in royal style, and until the insurrection the parents of Mrs. Crouse resided in the paternal mansion. The death of Mrs. Crouse occurred September 4, 1857, she having been the mother of ten children. Five were reared and four are now living—Rachel, Ethelbert, Almira and Erastus. All are married and have families. After the marriage of Dr. Crouse with Mary A. Rodgers they had four children—Ella, Lizzie, Hugh, and one died in infancy. Ella wedded Dr. Hamilton Emanuel, of Dakota; Lizzie married Ezra P. Johnson, and resides on the homestead; Hugh is completing his studies at Crawfordsville, Indiana, and will graduate in medicine. The doctor accumulated a large property, and leaves to his widow and children a competency. He died August 16, 1883, aged sixty-six years. He left a record which his children may always refer to with pride. He was one of the first physicians in the northern part of the county.



WILLIAM C. JOHNSON, farmer and stock-raiser, Nottingham Township, was born in Jackson County, Ohio, December 7, 1850, son of Robert and Nancy (Buckley) Johnson, the former a native of Greenbrier County, Virginia, and the latter of Jackson County, Ohio. When Robert was two years of age his parents removed to Jackson County, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood, where he was married, and where he and his wife now reside.

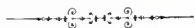
William was next to the youngest of six children. He was reared to farm life in Jackson County, and made that county his home until his twenty-fourth year, when he came to this county and located on a farm of 153 acres he had previously purchased. Of this land only fourteen acres were cleared and no ditching or draining had been done. Since Mr. Johnson came the timber has gradually disappeared until he has ninety-five acres cleared, and he has spent \$700 on tile draining, and the land that was entirely unfit for cultivation, is now dry and productive. He was married September 14, 1876, to Miss Charity J. Shigley, who was born in Nottingham Township, daughter of John and Maria (Reed) Shigley, the former a native of Greene County, Ohio, and the latter of Ross County, same State. They were early settlers of this county, the father having come here with his parents when a young boy. The mother died in 1876, and the father is still a resident of this township. After the death of his wife he married Mrs. Mary Rose, nee Gottschalk. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of five children—John R., Lulu Viola, Mollie Elizabeth, Melvin Monroe and Hugh M. R. O. Mr. Johnson was reared a Democrat, but is now independent in politics.



HENRY C. McCULLICK, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Tyler County, West Virginia, October 11, 1828, a son of Henry and Martha (Twibell) McCullick, who were natives of Maryland. They removed from Maryland to Virginia with their respective parents and were married in the latter State. In 1830 they removed with their family by team to Athens County, Ohio, remaining in that county until October 1, 1835, when they started for Wells County,

Indiana. A road had been made as far as Muncie, Indiana, but from there they had to cut their own road. On coming to the county the family remained with Thomas Blunt, while the father and his son John came to their future home, and the latter entered forty acres of land. In February, 1836, the family removed to their new home, which was then occupied by Indians. Henry McCullick had been reared from boyhood among Indians in the States of Kentucky, Virginia and Ohio, and had followed hunting from the time he was able to carry a rifle, becoming an expert marksman, and in Virginia, the home of the hunters, he had accomplished feats that few could imitate. In that State on one occasion he shot seven panthers, one after another as fast as he could load his gun. After clearing a little of his land Mr. McCullick built a rude log cabin, with puncheon floor and clapboard roof, to which his family removed the following May. Game of all kinds was abundant, and the product of the rifle was the principal support of the family in those days, and it is an undoubted fact that Mr. McCullick shot more deer and other game than any man in Wells County. When he came here there was but one settler in Warren. Muncie was their nearest milling place. He continued to reside in Chester Township until his death, October 10, 1863, his wife having died in 1847. Both are buried in the Twibell graveyard in Blackford County. Henry C. McCullick, the subject of this sketch, passed his youth amid pioneer scenes, and was early in life inured to hard work, helping to clear the home farm from the wilderness. He was no hunter, but devoted his time to agricultural pursuits, although he would go coon hunting at night sometimes after his day's work was done. He was married in November, 1850, to Miss Elizabeth Anderson, a native of

Washington County, Ohio, and daughter of Samuel Anderson, who came with his family to Wells County in 1849. To this union were born seven children—Nun, living in Warren; Lot; Isaac N.; William A.; Lucy, wife of William Alexander; Jasper, deceased; and Sarah Jane, deceased, wife of Tilton Jones. Mrs. McCullick died March 27, 1876, and August 19, 1876, Mr. McCullick married Mrs. Mandana McIntyre, by whom he had one daughter—Emma. Mrs. McCullick was a daughter of Robert D. and Esther (Martin) Hadway, they being natives of Jackson County, Ohio. They removed to Wells County, Indiana, in 1843, where both died in 1851, the father dying September 14, and the mother September 21. Mrs. McCullick was first married to Thomas McIntyre, who died in 1876, leaving two children—Isaac, and Amanda, who is now the wife of Nun McCullick. Mr. McCullick has experienced many of the hardships and privations, as well as the pleasures, incident to pioneer life, and has seen the surrounding country transformed from a state of nature into its present prosperous condition. He is the oldest resident of Wells County, having made his home here more than half a century ago. He is a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, and takes an active interest in anything which has for its object the advancement of his township or county. In politics he affiliates with the Greenback party.

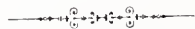


JOHN MINNICH, a son of Jacob and Christiana (Ebersole) Minnich, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, the date of his birth being November 11, 1835. He was but six years old when brought by his parents to Wells County, but old enough to form a clear idea of the events of those pioneer days.

Within a week after coming here his father was taken sick, and through all that long, hard winter was unable to do work of any kind, and all that time until the 14th of March their horses stood in the deep snow hitched to the wagon, when they raised a round-log stable. About the end of March, 1842, the father was able to commence work, and during that season took part in twenty-one log-rollings and raisings, assisting new-comers to make a home in the wilderness. He brought with him two barrels of flour from Ohio, and this was all they had until they raised their own wheat some eighteen months later. There was only one road in his neighborhood at that time leading to Huntington, and this was by no means plainly marked, and led off into all directions through the woods, and was often in an almost impassable condition. Mr. Minnich taught his son John to drive team when but seven years old, and he hauled the first corn his father raised to Huntington. There was no school in his neighborhood until the second winter, and this was the first school our subject attended. The school was held in a pole shanty, about forty rods from the present Baptist church. The window was covered with greased paper, and when one of the boys would throw a snow-ball through it the next problem would be where to get another newspaper, as only two men in the entire neighborhood took newspapers at that time. The furniture consisted of a long plank under the above-mentioned window, which was supported by two pegs driven into the wall, and this was used as a writing desk, while the seats consisted of logs split in two and set up on pegs. The fire-place was opposite the window, and was built entirely of sticks and mud, and the back-logs burned in it were carried in with handspikes by the four largest boys. John Minnich was reared amid such pioneer scenes, and was early in

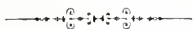
life inured to hard work, assisting his father to clear and improve the farm. He was married November 6, 1857, to Miss Mary Hufman, a daughter of John and Susan (Myers) Huffman, she being a native of Clarke County, Ohio. To this union were born four children—Lewis, Jacob, Oliver and one who died in infancy. Beside their own children, they have provided homes for three others—Jacob Wolfgang, whom they reared from ten years of age; Rachel Bradfield, who is now the wife of William Honeycutt, and Daisy Neff, aged twelve years, who is now living with them. Mr. Minnich lived on the home farm of his parents until about two years after his marriage, when in 1859 he removed to eighty acres of land on section 12, Jackson Township, which he had bought in February, 1858. This land was heavily covered with timber, not a tree having been cut. The first work done here he and his father made 2,200 pounds of maple sugar. In 1858 he cleared twenty acres of his land, and that winter put up a round-pole house and stable and had a well dug, and the following spring located on the place. That season he cleared, fenced and planted in corn six acres, and from this start he has made one of the best farms in his neighborhood. His farm now consists of 160 acres, 116 acres of which is cleared and under fine cultivation, the surroundings showing the owner to be a thorough, practical farmer. He erected his present handsome, substantial residence in the spring of 1874, he having followed carpentering for six years previous. In his political views he is a Democrat, but sometimes votes independent of party ties. Though not an office seeker, he has served as supervisor for two terms, to the satisfaction of his constituents. He has been a member of the German Baptist church at Sugar Grove for thirty years, being one of the first members,

and was trustee and treasurer at the time of the erection of the church building. He has been a deacon in the church for twenty years.



ZACHARIAH T. FETTERS, farmer, Harrison Township, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 8, 1847, the third son and sixth child of Thomas and Sarah (Bright) Fetters, natives of the same county. The father was a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Fetters. Our subject was reared to farm life and attended the common schools until he was sixteen years of age, then began working out by the month, which he continued until he was twenty-five years old. In 1863 he went to Tama County, Iowa, where he remained six months, thence to Shelby County, Illinois, remaining several months, then returned to his native county. In 1866 he drove a team to Independence, Missouri, where he remained a little over one year, thence to Leavenworth, Kansas, for a short time, then back to his home in Ohio. He started for California, but being unable to go through, went to Hancock County, Ohio, where he was married August 5, 1874, to Miss Catherine Ramsey, daughter of ——— and Louisa Ramsey, the former a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, of Irish descent, and the latter a native of Canada. Six weeks later they arrived in Wells County and settled upon land his father had entered from the Government in 1844. He immediately began clearing and improving the land, and now has forty-seven acres cleared and underdrained. It is conceded to be one of the best farms in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Fetters have had four children—William A., born June 30, 1875; Benjamin F., born November 16, 1878; Charles De Forest,

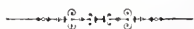
born August 6, 1880, and died September 26, 1881, and Sarah J., born August 16, 1882. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Fettes is a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity, Lodge 114, at Bluffton, and of the Bluffton Encampment, 141. Politically he is a Republican. His farm contains eighty acres of land and it is well cultivated.



WILLIAM J. McAFEE, of Bluffton, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, October 3, 1841, a son of James and Rachel (Dinsmore) McAfee, natives of County Antrim, Ireland, where they were reared and married, and in 1836 came to the United States and settled in Wayne County, Ohio, where they engaged in farming. The parents of James McAfee accompanied him to the United States, and both died in Ohio. To James and Rachel McAfee were born two sons—Samuel J. and William J. Mrs. McAfee died in 1842, and the father afterward married Eliza Cherry, and to them were born two daughters—Matilda J., wife of James Earl, and Maria. October 3, 1853, the father came to Wells County, Indiana, and bought eighty-three and a half acres of land in Lancaster Township, where he passed the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1862, at the age of fifty-two years. The subject of our sketch, William McAfee, was twelve years of age when his father moved to Wells County, and here he was reared and educated. He remained on the farm with his father until after the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, and July 12, 1861, enlisted in the defense of his country, being the first man to enlist in the three years' service from Wells County. He was assigned to Company 1, Twenty-second Indiana In-

fantry, and saw active service the greater part of the time of his enlistment, participating in many of the most noted battles of the war. He was with Fremont on the frontier, and at the battles of Glasgow and Warrensburg, Missouri, was at Pea Ridge, Corinth, Bay Springs, Perryville, Stone River, Hoover's Gap, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Rome, Rocky Face Ridge, Big Shanty, New Hope Church, Burnt Hickory, Kennesaw Mountain, Dallas, Chattahoochee River, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, with Sherman to the sea, and at Averasboro and Bentonville. He participated in the grand review at Washington, and was honorably discharged August 5, 1865. He was wounded twice, in the head at Mission Ridge, and in the foot at Kennesaw Mountain. At the close of the war he returned to his home in Wells County, and engaged in farming on the old homestead, his father having died while he was in the army. In 1867 he bought eighty acres of land in Jefferson Township, and built a house, and cleared twenty-five acres. In 1870 he sold his farm and went to Osage, Kansas, where he lived three years; then returned to Wells County, and bought eighty acres of improved land in Lancaster Township. In 1882 he bought 160 acres on section 17, Harrison Township, which is one of the best farms in the county. He lived on this farm three years, and in March, 1885, rented it and moved to Bluffton. For a year and a half he was engaged in the farm-implement business, and in the fall of 1886 became associated with George H. Maddox in the livery business. Mr. McAfee was married September 27, 1867, to Mary E. Taylor, a daughter of Levi and Keziah (Calahan) Taylor, who came from Trumbull County, Ohio, to Wells County, in 1861. Mr. and Mrs. McAfee have five children—Orpha, Harry

L., James T., Ellsworth and Ella. In politics Mr. McAfee is a Republican, and is chairman of the Wells County Republican Central Committee. He is a member of Lew. Dailey Post, No. 33, Bluffton.



GEORGE E. GARDINER. — George Gardiner, grandparent of the subject of this sketch, married Elizabeth White, and emigrated from Ireland to America in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and lived many years in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. From thence he moved to Wayne County, Ohio. To them were born four sons and four daughters. James Gardiner, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1800, and on October 9, 1827, married Jane McCaughey, daughter of Joseph and Jennetta McCaughey. They were blessed with eight children, namely—Elizabeth, Jennetta, Margaret, George, Sarah, Joseph, Samuel and Wilson, all of whom grew to be men and women. The only survivors at the present time are Elizabeth, George and Samuel. George E. Gardiner, the subject of this sketch, was born April 4, 1835, in Wayne County, Ohio, and in 1849 immigrated with his parents to Wells County, Indiana. His parents were poor, but honest and industrious. Soon after moving to Wells County the father, James Gardiner, was seriously wounded at a wolf hunt, and as a result was disabled from performing manual labor during the remainder of his life. As George was the eldest son, the task of furnishing the necessaries of life fell heavily upon him. The scarcity of provisions and money incident to the new and unimproved condition of the country presented difficulties which were almost insurmountable, and

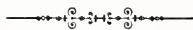
yet, by united effort and great care, they went through them all. George continued to aid his parents and contribute to their support until he was married. When the war of the Rebellion broke out, George, with his two oldest brothers, Joseph and Samuel, immediately responded to their country's call for troops. The fourth brother, Wilson, was too young to enlist at that time, but went two years later. Joseph and Wilson both fell in battle, in June, 1864, near Dalton, Georgia. Samuel received a wound, and from the effects of exposure still suffers from paralysis, which renders him entirely unfit for any duty, but he has the warm sympathy of all around him. George E. enlisted in August, 1861, in Company E, Thirtieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, commanded by S. S. Bass, of Fort Wayne, who was killed at the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee. He participated in skirmishes, marches and engagements in Kentucky and Tennessee, taking part in the battle of Shiloh, followed closely by skirmishes and the capture of Corinth. From thence he went to Iuka, Florence, Decatur, Huntsville, Stevenson and Battle Creek, Alabama. At the latter place he was prostrated with fever, removed to Nashville and placed in a hospital. He was soon discharged, on account of disabilities received from exposure and forced marches. He remained at home for a time, but after being restored to health he re-enlisted, this time in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the engagements in and around Mobile, Alabama. He was mustered out October 26, 1865, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On arriving home after the war he engaged in teaching school. In 1865 he bought a tract of land in the woods of Wells County, and toiled industriously at improving his farm until December, 1870, at which time he was appointed deputy treasurer of the county.



G. E. Gardiner

He remained in the treasurer's office until November, 1875, when he was elected county auditor. During the four years he served in this office he enjoyed the approbation of all parties. He retired from the office at the expiration of the term greatly broken down in health, but with the good wishes of all who knew him. He is now serving his third term as a member of the city school board, and the present prosperity of the schools is largely due to his wise counsels and untiring efforts. He was reared in the United Presbyterian church, but is now a leading member of the Presbyterian church, and a ruling elder in the same. He took a very active part in the building of the new and beautiful church edifice, giving almost his entire time to the superintendency of its construction, and contributing liberally from his means. Politically he is a staunch Democrat. Although reared a Republican, and having voted for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, yet in 1862, while in the army, he became a Democrat, and has ever since been one of the strongest advocates of his party's principles. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being a Knight Templar. He is also a member of *Lew. Daily Post*, No. 33, G. A. R. He was married September 24, 1863, to Mattie E. Ogden, from which union a son, John R., was born, who is now a promising young man of sixteen years. His beloved wife, Mattie, dying September 26, 1885, he was afterward married to Mrs. M. C. Thomas, who is his present wife. Mr. Gardiner is now living in the quiet of his peaceful home, with his wife, his son John, and his father-in-law, John Ogden. He has in his life passed through many scenes of hardship and danger, having performed faithfully his duties to his God, his country, his parents and society. In the different offices in which he has served he has been a faithful public

servant, enjoying at all times the confidence and esteem of all, irrespective of party. He has always been strictly temperate in his habits, of great liberality and fine social qualities. Being genial, generous and public spirited, he has also been known for his strength of character and straightforwardness, always keeping in view right and justice.



 ILLIAM CARGER, one of the progressive farmers of Rock Creek Township, is a native of Ohio, born in Knox County, June 18, 1834, a son of Emanuel and Margaret (Long) Carger. When he was a child his mother died, and after her death he found a home in the family of William Roberts. He came with Mr. Roberts to Wells County, Indiana, in 1850, remaining with him until his death, almost twelve years. After the death of Mr. Roberts he went to work for Jacob Shively, remaining in his employ four years when he went to Warren, where he spent one year. He was married September 11, 1859, to Miss Margaret Sheets, a native of Huntington County, Indiana, and daughter of John Sheets. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carger, of whom one son, Emanuel, is deceased. The names of those yet living are—Julia A., Mary C., John and William. After his marriage Mr. Carger bought 101 acres of land on section 6, Rock Creek Township, of which fifteen acres were partially cleared. He cleared and improved this land, making his home there until 1874 when he traded his land on section 6 for 101 acres of his present farm on section 7, to which he has since added eighty-two acres, all of which is now cleared and under good cultivation. All his property has been made

by years of toil and strict economy, and his first fifty-six acres were paid for with money he earned while working as a day laborer. Mrs. Carger died September 10, 1886. She was a worthy member of the Christian church. Mr. Carger is a member of the same church. He is an Odd Fellow, and belongs to Markle Lodge, No. 362. In his political views he affiliates with the Democratic party.

—•••••—

WILLIAM B. MERRIMAN, a prosperous citizen of Lancaster Township, residing on section 21, has been identified with Wells County since 1851, in which year he settled on the land he still occupies, buying at that time forty acres from James Daily, a pioneer of Wells County. He owned before that an adjoining eighty acres, purchased by him in 1844, and has since added another forty acres, his home farm now consisting of 160 acres of well improved and cultivated land. Mr. Merriman is a native of Ohio, born in Wayne County, November 22, 1816. His parents, Elijah and Mary (McCoy) Merriman, made their home in Wayne County only nine days before his birth, they coming from Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where they were born, reared and married. They spent the rest of their lives in Wayne County, the father dying at the age of forty-five years, and the mother in her seventy-ninth year. Of the eleven children our subject was the fourth child and second son. Nine of them are yet living, their average age in 1887 being over sixty-seven years. James lives at Liberty Center, Wells County, where he settled in 1838; Thomas and Elijah live in Whitley County; John lives in Wayne County, Ohio; Mrs. Mahala Johnson is also a resident of Wayne County; Mrs. Sarah Griffith lives in Iowa; Mrs.

Eliza Muncy resides at Liberty Center; Mrs. Huldah Wire lives in Huntington County, and the two youngest children died in childhood. William B. Merriman, the subject of this sketch, spent his youth on his father's farm. At the age of nineteen years he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed over thirty years, working at his trade in Wells County over thirty years. He was united in marriage, November 12, 1838, to Miss Elizabeth Knight, who was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1820, a daughter of Daniel Knight. Her parents subsequently removed to Wayne County, Ohio, and in 1851 came to Wells County, both dying in Lancaster Township. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Merriman—Mrs. Lucinda Daily, residing in Arkansas; Mrs. Mary Ann Patte, of Jefferson Township, Wells County; Ezra, living at Murray; Mason, living in Arkansas; Mrs. Almira Davis, deceased, and William Henry, a resident of Bluffton. Mr. Merriman came to Wells County comparatively poor, but is now in good circumstances, surrounded by all the necessary comforts of life. He is a Democrat in his political views, having voted that ticket since casting his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren in 1836.

—•••••—

HARVEY WEAVER was born in Center County, Pennsylvania, son of Solomon and Julia A. (Zeigler) Weaver, also natives of Pennsylvania, who were for many years engaged in farming. The father was a wagon and coach-maker by trade, and had a shop upon his farm near Rebersburg. Their children were Cyrus, Calvin, Nathaniel and Harvey, all of whom were born in Center County, and all came to this county except Calvin, who remained in Union County,

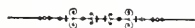
Pennsylvania. The parents are both deceased. Cyrus married Ella Bunn, and is a carpenter, residing at Decatur, Indiana. Nathaniel and Harvey both learned the trade of harness-making in Pennsylvania. Nathaniel arrived at Ossian in the autumn of 1877, and purchased the shop and stock of W. B. Mills. The next spring Harvey became a resident of the village, and in 1881 a partnership was formed which continued four years, when Nathaniel purchased his brother's interest and has since then conducted the business alone. Nathaniel married Miss Maggie Glass, daughter of John Glass, Sr., October 10, 1882, Rev. Ryder performing the marriage ceremony. They have one child—Maggie M. Harvey married Miss Wealthy G. Gorrell, daughter of John G. Gorrell, of this township, December 23, 1885. They have one son—Dent, whose grandfather is the oldest citizen of the county. Since disposing of his interest in the harness business our subject has given his attention to farming. The brothers are representative business men, and are allied by marriage to two of the oldest and best families in Jefferson Township.

—•••••—

WILLIAM M. TWIBELL, farmer, Chester Township, was born upon the farm where now he resides, November 14, 1847, son of Luther and Sarah (Bowman) Twibell. His father was born in Taylor County, Virginia, February 1, 1822, of Irish ancestry. He was reared to farm life in his native State, and removed to Henry County, Indiana, in October, 1834, thence to Blackford County in 1840, traveling by team all the way. Luther remained with his parents until marriage, which occurred March 7, 1841. Mrs. Twibell was born in Greene

County, Pennsylvania, and of Dutch descent. In October, 1841, they came to Wells County and purchased eighty acres of land, which now comprises a part of the village of Keystone. Everything was new. Neighbors were scarce and wolves were plenty. Wild game was also abundant. Here he made his clearing, and with the logs cut down he erected his first log cabin and necessary farm buildings, all of which have been torn down to give place to railroads. Their milling was done at Munce, and there was no regular road to travel over. There were only four teams in the whole neighborhood, and they were scattered over a territory embracing Chester and Harrison townships. He was not fond of hunting, and his time was devoted to clearing and improving his land. Some idea of the experiences of those pioneer days may be formed, when it is related that three families, consisting of twenty-two people, occupied a house 16x18 feet. The first cook stove was purchased by his two sons, William and David, who sold the wheat they raised on a piece of land set apart for that purpose. Their cabin was raised one day and the family moved in the next, and the furniture consisted of a table made by driving stakes in the ground and laying clapboards. When they removed to Wells County they moved into their house before even a hole was cut for the chimney, and the first fire was built in the middle of the room. Amid such scenes as these our subject was reared, and he has always lived on the old homestead. He was married June 7, 1868, to Miss Adelaide Gertrude Waugh, a native of Blackford County. She was left an orphan at the age of four years, and was reared by her grandmother and uncle. Mr. and Mrs. Twibell have had six children, of whom one, an infant unnamed, is deceased. The living are—Eli Alexander, Levi Lewis, Sarah Ora, Mary Eva and Minnie

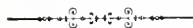
Ola. Both are members of the United Brethren church, of which he is steward, and in politics he is a Republican, as is also his father.



WESLEY HARVEY MADDOX, retired farmer, residing in Chester Township, was born in Highland County, Ohio, September 2, 1821, a son of Michael and Frances (Williams) Maddox, natives of Virginia, and of English and Scotch descent respectively. His paternal ancestors came to America about the time of the Revolutionary war. Michael Maddox was twice married. He was first married in Virginia to a lady by the name of Fraley, by whom he had ten children. After his marriage he came, in 1795, to Adams County, Ohio, and later removed to Highland County, where his wife died. He was then married in Highland County, to Frances Williams, and in the fall of 1839 he removed with his family to Blackford County, Indiana, where he lived until his death September 10, 1845. In 1866 his widow went to Nebraska, and died in Richardson County, that State, December 10, 1874. Wesley H. Maddox, the subject of this sketch, was reared till his sixteenth year in Highland County, when, in 1837, he came to Indiana, having a brother in Winchester, Randolph County, with whom he remained from February till the following April, when he came to Blackford County, and after his parents came to that county, he made his home with them until after his father's death. In 1842 he and a half brother bought 160 acres of land on section 36, Chester Township, his half-brother giving a horse in payment for his share. At that time he had not a dollar, but at once set to work hunting coon and deer, and at the close of the year 1844 had his eighty acres paid for,

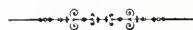
and in 1845 he purchased the eighty acres belonging to his half-brother, when he went to Wayne County and began working for \$10 per month. After working four years in Wayne, Fayette and Union counties he had paid for his land, besides making a trip home every year, and going to Bluffton to pay his taxes. A log house, 18 x 24 feet, had been built on his land by the former owner, who had settled here in 1841. Mr. Maddox was married November 8, 1849, and on the 22d of November he and his wife settled on the place. It was then wild timber land with only an acre cleared, and their joint possessions consisted of a bedstead, a few dishes, two cows and two colts, but Mr. Maddox soon made a table out of black walnut, which he still has in his possession. He had been quite a hunter from the time he came to Indiana until he settled on his land, and from that time devoted his time to clearing and improving his place, remaining there until he moved to his present farm on section 24 of the same township, and from his small beginning he has accumulated 328 acres of land, of which about 218 acres have been cleared. Mrs. Maddox was formerly Miss Eliza Ann Grove. She was born in the State of Ohio, a daughter of Thomas and Ann Grove, who came to Wells County, Indiana, in 1839, living in this county until their death. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Maddox, of whom seven are living—Leander E. (a physician), Mrs. Frances M. Leech, Joseph Collins, William McKendree, Sarah Ellen (wife of Amaziah Shields), Wesley Harvey and Laura Belle. Thomas is deceased. Mrs. Maddox died May 9, 1874. In politics Mr. Maddox has been a Republican since the organization of that party. He has held among other local offices that of township trustee. He takes an active interest in the affairs of his township, and in the advance-

ment of the cause of education, and has given his children good educational advantages. His wife taught the first school in Chester Township, on the land now owned by John Graves. Mr. Maddox has experienced the privations as well as the pleasures of pioneer life, and has witnessed the surrounding country change from a state of nature into well cultivated fields and thriving towns and villages.



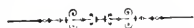
JOHN H. BENDER, farmer and stock-raiser, section 14, Rock Creek Township, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, December 1, 1840, the eldest son of John and Barbara (Mast) Bender. When he was ten years old his parents came to Wells County, Indiana, and after living in Bluffton six months, they located in Rock Creek Township, purchasing the farm on which our subject now resides in 1852. He was reared to the avocation of a farmer and received a common-school education in the schools of his neighborhood. He was early in life inured to hard work, his youth being spent in assisting his father clear his land. He enlisted in the late war August 15, 1862, and was assigned to Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry. He went through Kentucky and Tennessee, and participated in many hard fought battles, serving his country until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged August 24, 1865, when he returned to his home in Wells County, and for the following nine years he was engaged in running a threshing machine during the summer, and sawing wood and hulling corn during the rest of the year. September 28, 1870, he was married to Miss Eliza Raver, a daughter of Joseph Raver, of Bluffton, and to them have been born eight children—Cora

E., John D. (died, aged three years), Della Jane, William H., Louis Nelson, Charles N., Ada Azora, and one who died in infancy. After his marriage Mr. Bender settled on his father-in-law's farm where he resided nine years. He then removed to the old Bender homestead in Rock Creek Township, which he purchased in 1881, and now owns about 120 acres of choice land well improved and under fine cultivation. Mr. Bender began life without capital, but with a determination to succeed, and by his own efforts has acquired his present farm, and by his honorable dealings he has won the respect of the entire community. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party. He and his wife are members of the Reformed church, in which they take an active interest. He was elected superintendent of the Sunday-school in 1885, '86 and '87, and under his management the average attendance of the school more than doubled.



PETER MINNICH, an active and progressive agriculturist, engaged in farming on section 12, Jackson Township, was born in Wells County, Indiana, May 10, 1844, a son of Jacob and Christiana (Ebersole) Minnich, an old and honored pioneer of the county. Peter grew up to manhood amid the scenes attending the life of the early settlers, and passed his youth in assisting his father clear his farm, and in attending the rude pole cabin school of his neighborhood, where he received his education. He was married May 29, 1864, to Miss Martha Jane Clampitt, a native of North Carolina, a daughter of George and Mahala Clampitt. Her parents came to Indiana in 1858, and settled in Huntington County, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Seven children have

been born to Mr. and Mrs. Minnich, of whom six are still living—Rosa Ellen, Emma Elsie, Nancy Catherine, Charles Emery, Nellie Dell and Perry Oscar. A son named George Hill is deceased. Mr. Minnich made his home with his parents until three years after his marriage, when he bought eighty acres of the farm where he has since resided. It was then in a state of nature, entirely unimproved, and after clearing a small space he erected a frame house, which is still standing. By industry and good management he has added to his original purchase until his farm now contains 120 acres of land, of which 103 acres is cleared and improved. In politics Mr. Minnich casts his suffrage with the Republican party. He is a member of the German Baptist church, and has been superintendent of the Sabbath-schools at Sugar Grove for four years.

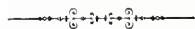


WILLIAM WILKIN was born in Harrison County, Ohio, near Cadiz, son of Thomas P. and Mary A. (Poland) Wilkin, who were married in that county, and where the two oldest children were born—William, and Mary A., now the wife of John Kleinknight. The death of the mother occurred when Mary was only seven days old, and the children were cared for by their grandmother Wilkin. She was left a widow when her son Thomas was a mere lad, and after his marriage, her home was with him, and came with him to this county to share the toils and hardships of pioneer life. William was born April 8, 1833, and was four years of age when his father removed from Ohio to this county, stopping at Murray during the winter of 1837. The next spring Thomas came to the land now occupied by our subject, which was entered by him Sep-

tember 13, 1839. The following year he entered another tract, both of which patents, bearing the signature of President Van Buren, are in possession of William Wilkin. The first year they built a log cabin and cleared a few acres. They experienced very hard times. The horses strayed away, and one was mired and died in the swamp. Another one also died, and Thomas was left without a team to work his ground. A number of Indians were encamped near the edge of Bear Swamp, remaining three or four years, hunting all the while through these woods. Game of all kinds was abundant, and bears were occasionally killed. Mr. Wilkins relates that the Indians killed a bear near his father's house one morning, and afterward brought him one of the hams. They also made maple sugar in the woods near by, and were upon excellent terms with all the white settlers, of whom there were but few. Game furnished most of the meat supply for several years. A few hogs were raised, but these were wild and comparatively valueless. Farming was conducted on a very small scale, and there was nothing that would bring money, and in fact there was nothing to sell except coon and deer pelts, and they only brought a trifle. The corn that was planted was preyed upon in the spring by squirrels and in the fall by raccoons, until there was scarcely anything left for the settlers. Martin Perry settled near Thomas Wilkin, and for years they were the only ones in this immediate neighborhood. The fortunes of the newcomers improved very slowly, in fact money could hardly be obtained to pay taxes. Our subject was rapidly growing into manhood, and developed into a great hunter. Inured to forest life, and agile as an Indian, he, in company with Jo. Mendenhall, now of Liberty Township, hunted in partnership for several years, and during the

season, their receipts averaged from \$10 to \$40 per day. With the money thus obtained William aided his father and helped to save him from many inconveniences. Thomas married Miss Rhoda Sutton about 1848. Not agreeing very well, they separated three years later, and Thomas remained unmarried during the remainder of his life. He was elected to official positions but refused to qualify, and was averse to attending to any save his own business. He died November 19, 1873, after a long life of usefulness, having been one of the first settlers in the county. In the early day, when a stranger appeared, Thomas waited not for him to approach unheralded, but always left his work and ran to make him welcome. William Wilkin was not well educated, in the ordinary sense of the word, as schools were almost unknown during his boyhood. He is a man, however, possessing good practical common-sense and judgment, and possessing much shrewdness, withal, being one of the best farmers in the neighborhood. He is making money easily and rapidly. His mind is stored with much valuable information regarding the early history of the town and the historian is under great obligation for much that will appear in this work. February 21, 1856, he married Mary E. F. Trenary, daughter of Richard A. Trenary, one of the first settlers of Allen and Wells counties. He was known among the Indians as the "True Pale Face." Mr. and Mrs. Wilkin had nine children—Richard, Evaline, Nancy, William A., Emma J., Alonzo D., Clarence V., Nelson S. and Gracie. The death of the wife and mother occurred November 19, 1874. Five of her children are living and one is married. Miss Laura J. Woodard became the wife of Mr. Wilkin, March 16, 1876, Rev. J. H. McMahon performing the marriage ceremony. They had one child—Corra S. A few years

later, Laura J. separated from her husband, and July 13, 1884, Mr. Wilkin married Miss Rachel A. Norton, and Rev. B. Howard, pastor of the Poneto Baptist church, performing the ceremony. Mrs. Wilkin's parents were W. H. and Sarah A. (Huggins) Norton, whose parents were also early settlers, coming to Wells County in 1840. The mother is now a resident of Bluffton. The home of Mr. Wilkin is such as might be expected of a man who has wealth and ambition. The courtesy of himself and wife is proverbial. Naney, the second daughter, married Marion Garton, a farmer and manufacturer of tile in Lancaster Township. Although still a young man Mr. Wilkin has six grandchildren.



ELIJAH HUFFMAN is a worthy representative of the Huffman family, who have been closely identified with the development of this part of Wells County. He is a native of the State of Indiana, born in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, February 1, 1855, a son of John and Susanah (Myers) Huffman. He grew to manhood on the old homestead in Salamonie Township, being reared to agricultural pursuits, which he has always followed. He was united in marriage November 17, 1878, to Miss Mary E. Hamilton, who was born in Wells County, Indiana, a daughter of Alexander and Anna (Wright) Hamilton. They are the parents of one child, a daughter, named Maud S. Mr. Huffman made his home with his mother in Huntington County until two years after his marriage. He then, in the spring of 1879, bought forty acres in Jackson Township, Wells County, part of which was cleared. Since coming here he has cleared ten acres and put 600 rods of tile on his original forty

acres, and has added to this until his farm now contains eighty-one and a half acres. His farm is all cleared but three acres, and the surroundings of his place show him to be a thorough, practical farmer. Politically he is a Democrat. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church.

 MICHAEL C. BLUE, farmer, was born in Miami County, Ohio, April 16, 1836, son of Uriah and Rachel (Moore) Blue, who were among the earliest settlers of the Miami Valley. In March, 1840, Uriah Blue emigrated to this county with his family, and settled upon the north-west quarter of section 15, Lancaster Township. He entered this land in 1836. The patent is now in possession of our subject, and bears the signature of President Van Buren. They had four children when they came to the county—Mary, Lucinda, Michael C. and James. Their household goods were transported with teams, and a few cows were driven through. No improvements had been made upon the land, and the family pitched their tent beside a great log. During the night a violent snow storm came up, which almost covered both tent and wagons. Wolves howled on every side, and their snapping teeth, added to their dismal howls, drove the dog inside. Their first introduction to Wells County was anything but pleasant. Word was received by the neighbors who lived down the river that a new family had arrived, and in three or four days a number of them put in an appearance. They helped cut the logs, raise and cover the new cabin, and made the family as comfortable as possible. All were strangers, and Mr. Blue does not remember any of their names, as he was then only four years old. There was not a monthful of feed

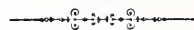
for the cattle, and during the spring they became very poor and a part of them perished before the snow was gone. To add to their vexations, the horses strayed away and returned to Miami County. Uriah went after them and was fortunate enough to recover them. The father was a cooper by trade, and was rather an unsuccessful farmer. He finally cleared forty acres, but his chief delight consisted in hunting. He was very successful, and the harder was well supplied with wild meats. Hundreds of deer fell victims to his unerring aim, and the products of the chase maintained his family almost exclusively. Upon his arrival he had \$5 in money, \$4 of which was expended for four bushels of corn. Being the only cooper in the neighborhood, he made all the barrels, well-buckets and crout-tubs that were used for miles around. There were no schools in the neighborhood, and our subject was fifteen years old before he could read his first spelling-book, which was purchased with money from the sale of wild blackberries. Sallie Baldwin taught a "select" school at her home, and Michael was one of her first pupils. He early learned the mysteries of the chase, and he also became an expert hunter and trapper. In speaking of his school-boy costume, Mr. Blue says, "My pantaloons were made of dressed buckskin; vest and cap of fawn skin, tanned with the hair on, while moccasins of deer skin ornamented my feet." His father did not favor education in any sense, but Michael was delighted with books. He made barrels until money enough was earned to buy Ray's Third Arithmetic, and he frequently stole out to the woods, where most of his problems were mentally solved. At an early day they had neither lamps nor candles, and Michael would stretch himself on the floor in front of the fire, and with a pile of shavings, lighting



Mr. Bliss

one by one, pursued his studies. His persistency brought its reward, and when twenty-five years of age he attended one term at the Murray Academy, and later at Roanoke College. His proficiency entitled him to a certificate, and he taught school in Jackson Township, Huntington County, and later he taught eight terms in this county. While at Roanoke he studied Robinson's Principles of Surveying, and in 1867 was elected surveyor of this county. He has always been accounted very accurate in that profession, and has been on almost every section of land in the county. His commission bears the signature of Governor Oliver P. Morton and Lieutenant-Governor Conrad Baker. From the age of twenty-one until his term of auditor expired, Mr. Blue was kept continuously in office, first as constable, then assessor, notary public, surveyor, auditor, and now holds a notary's commission—perhaps does as much business in this line as any other man in the county. In 1870 he was the choice of the Democracy of this county for auditor, was elected and gave the highest satisfaction as an official. Ill-health caused him to seek the country as soon as his term expired, and he has since paid special attention to farming. The eighty-acre tract upon which he resides was purchased with the products of his trapping while at home with his parents. At the time he was elected surveyor the office was unsolicited by him; but Joseph Meredith came out to his cabin, a log house, 12 x 14, and found our subject at home; told him they must make a canvass of the county, as election day was close at hand. The house was small, and Michael disliked to ask his guest so step outside while he changed his clothes, so taking his clothes under his arm he retired to the cornfield near by, and soon returned transformed into a candidate for public favor. Borrowing a horse from Iven Richey, he

started with Meredith, and taking in Rockford and Bluffton, returned to his home the same day, and was elected by a handsome majority. His marriage with Miss Rhoda A. Richey was celebrated May 1, 1866. Their children are—George Clement, Capolis Laird, Lola Z., Fred P. and Don I. After locating in this county, Mr. Blue's parents had five children—Kate, who became the wife of John McDowell; Uriah, a resident of Missouri; Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Kunkle; John, deceased, and Melissa, wife of John Kunkle. The death of the father occurred in 1867, and that of his wife, Rachel, in 1877. Mr. Blue surveyed the village of Tocsin in 1882, gave it its name, and applied for a postoffice. His addition adjoins the village on the west, and his farm is in close proximity to the village. The energy and enterprise of Mr. Blue has made him a wealthy man, and his children are given a liberal education. Inured to hardships from boyhood, he yet is one of the most industrious of men. A handsome residence will soon grace his broad acres, and will overlook the thrifty village he has been so largely instrumental in making.



WILLIAM J. PARKISON, son of Ebenezer and Isabella (Johnston) Parkison, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, October 25, 1845. In September, 1847, he was brought by his parents to Wells County, they settling on section 4 of Lancaster Township. He was reared on the home farm to agricultural pursuits, remaining with his parents until attaining his majority. When twenty-one years of age he began life for himself. May 30, 1866, he was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Maddux, who was born in Wells County, October 28, 1845, a daughter of Jacob Maddux, who settled in

the county in 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Parkison are the parents of six children—Delner Grant, Charles F., Anna Belle, Harry C., Minona F. and Oliver W. Mr. and Mrs. Parkison began housekeeping on a farm owned by John Osborne, located in Jefferson Township, where they spent one year. They then removed to section 33 of the same township, and commenced improving a small farm. Two years later they removed to Cass County, Indiana, where they followed farming three years, returning to the homestead of Mr. Parkison's parents, in Lancaster Township. Two years later they went to Allen County, returning to the old homestead in Wells County in 1880, where Mr. Parkison has since been extensively engaged in the manufacture of tile and terra cotta at Kingsland Station in connection with his farming pursuits. He has made most valuable improvements in ovens used for burning tile and terra cotta, and for utilizing the heat in drying sheds, by which he believes two-thirds of the fuel generally used can be saved. Ebenezer Parkison, the father of our subject, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, June 13, 1813, a son of Thomas and Eunice (Coe) Parkison, the father born in Pennsylvania, of Irish descent, and the mother a native of Virginia. They were pioneers of Jefferson County, Ohio, and in 1816 removed to Wayne County, Ohio, where they lived until their death. Ebenezer Parkison was married in Wayne County, September 24, 1840, to Isabel Johnston, who was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1811, a daughter of William Johnston. They came to Wells County in 1847, as before stated, bringing with them two children, a daughter, Margaret A., who is now the wife of Elisha O. Huss, and William J., the subject of this sketch. Three children were born to them after coming to Wells County, as follows—Philo John, who died

aged fifteen years; Eunice, and Johnston S., of Ossian, Wells County. On coming to the county the father purchased 240 acres of land in Lancaster Township, of which a few acres had been cleared, and a log cabin built. Here this old pioneer cleared and improved his land, bringing it under good cultivation, and has since made his home on the land on which he first settled in Wells County. He was bereaved by the death of his wife, June 26, 1886.

ISAAC N. NEFF, manufacturer of and dealer in proprietary medicines, is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Liberty Township, July 25, 1847, a son of Jacob and Mary (Chapman) Neff, the father born in Rockingham County, Virginia, of German descent, and the mother born in Highland County, Ohio. The father was reared in his native county, and after reaching maturity removed to Highland County, Ohio, and in 1843 located in Highland County, Indiana. He subsequently came to Wells County, and after living for a time in Jackson Township he came to Liberty Township, where he bought forty acres of wild land. After clearing a part of his land he erected a log cabin, to which he brought his wife, whom he had married shortly before. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and were early settlers of Wells County. The father of our subject was a great hunter, and coming to the county when game of all kinds was abundant he made good use of his rifle, and by hunting he obtained his first start in life, and bought his first land. He resided in Liberty Township until 1868, when he removed to Chester Township, living there until his death, April 25, 1883. His wife is also deceased, her death taking place July

14, 1885. He came to Wells County when the country was new and settlers few, but lived to see it changed into a well settled country, with well cultivated farms and prosperous towns and villages. Isaac N. Neff was reared in Wells County, and has always made it his home with the exception of two years spent in Delaware County, at Selma, and was educated in the common schools of his native county. March 27, 1869, Mr. Neff was married to Esther A. Spake, and of the six children born to them four are living—Charlie Denton, Sarah Estella, Bertha May and George Clinton. Mary Wilmetta and Cora Belle are deceased. In 1872 Mr. Neff engaged in the dry goods business at Mount Zion, which he followed six or seven years, but during part of this time he also studied medicine with his brother-in-law, Dr. John A. Morrison, now of Montpelier. He subsequently began the practice of medicine and at the same time attended lectures at Fort Wayne Medical College. After practicing his profession several years he withdrew his attention from his practice somewhat, on account of ill-health. In December, 1886, he commenced the manufacture of proprietary medicines, the American Pain Killer and the King of Consumption, which are sold by agents traveling through the country. The long experience of Mr. Neff has given him a great insight into the virtues of remedies, and his medicines are the result of observations of the effects of the remedies obtained through his studies and while in practice. In his political views he is a Democrat. For three years and three months he held the office of postmaster at Mount Zion, and for one year was assistant postmaster. At one time he owned a dry goods store at Bochner, Indiana, which was carried on by his cousin, and during that time he was express agent at Bochner. Mr. Neff is an active and en-

terprising citizen, and by his fair and honorable dealings has gained the confidence and respect of all who know him.

JOSEPH M. GRIFFITH, a representative of one of the old and respected pioneer families of Wells County, was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, October 22, 1844, a son of Samuel and Martha (Burkett) Griffith. His grandfather was a native of England, and on coming to America settled in Virginia, and subsequently removed to Perry County, Ohio, where his son Samuel, the father of our subject, was born, reared and married to Martha Burkett, who was also a native of Perry County. In the second year after their marriage, during the fall of 1838, they packed their household effects and came by team to Indiana, his parents and two married brothers and a single brother and sister accompanying them, all of whom located in Jackson Township, Wells County. Samuel with his family, then consisting of his wife and one son, George, located on a tract of 160 acres which he had previously entered. This land was heavily covered with timber, and no improvements had been made on the place, when he settled on it, except a log cabin which he and his brother had put up. Game was then very abundant. Mr. Griffith cleared about 130 acres of his land, and became one of the prosperous citizens of his township. In October, 1868, he removed to Springfield, Missouri, but two years later returned to Wells County, and rented land two years. He then bought 160 acres, and five years later added eighty acres to his first purchase. He subsequently sold forty acres, leaving him a tract of 200 acres. His wife died in July, 1848, and he was again married to Charlotte Wiley, who is

still living on the old homestead in Jackson Township. Samuel Griffith was a benevolent man, and a church member, and was a man universally respected. In the '50's he held the office of constable of Jackson Township. Joseph M. Griffith, whose name heads this sketch, was reared to manhood in Jackson Township, and has always made it his home with the exception of two years spent with his father's family in Missouri. On becoming of age he learned the carpenter's trade, which he has since followed together with farming. He also conducted a livery stable at Bluffton for one year. October 4, 1878, he was married to Miss Eliza Huffman, who was also born in Jackson Township, Wells County, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Baker) Huffman, and to them have been born six children—Charles, Dollie, Ortie, Ida, and two who died in infancy. In 1882 Mr. Griffith bought sixty acres of land in Jackson Township, where he has since made his home. Both he and his wife are members of the New Light Christian church, he being clerk of his church. In his political views he is a Democrat, but generally votes for the man whom he considers best fitted for office, independent of party ties. He has held the office of constable of his township, serving with credit to himself and his constituents.

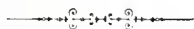
WILLIAM PRILLAMAN was born in this county June 31, 1856, oldest son of Lewis Prillaman. He was reared on a farm and attended the common schools of his father's district. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which occurred November 20, 1873, with Miss Isabel Markley, daughter of Gabriel Markley, and they settled on a part of the old

homestead, which contains eighty-six acres of improved land, in a good state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Prillaman are the parents of two children—Millie Myrtle and Ethel. Mrs. Prillaman is a member of the Christian church, and Mr. Prillaman is a Republican in politics.

HENRY C. MARKLEY, farmer, Harrison Township, was born on the farm where he now resides July 18, 1855, a son of Gabriel Markley. He was reared on his father's farm, and remained at home until his death, then succeeded to the old homestead. He was married October 23, 1883, to Miss Alice Williams, daughter of James and Harriet (Ballinger) Williams, and they have two children—Alta Bell, born September 15, 1884, and James Thomas, born December 31, 1885. Mr. Markley owns 352 acres of improved land, in a good state of cultivation. Himself and wife are members of the Christian church, and politically he is a Prohibitionist.

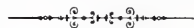
MARCELLUS M. JUSTUS, member of the hardware firm of Clark, Justus & Beil, Bluffton, Indiana, was born in Tamarack, Noble County, Indiana, a son of Lewis and Elizabeth (Kiser) Justus. When he was about one year old his parents moved to Fort Wayne, and when he was six years old to Murray, Wells County, where his mother died when he was eight years old. After the death of his mother he lived with relatives in Tippecanoe County two years, when his father was again married, and he returned to Murray. In 1861 he enlisted in Company A, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry, but when the

company was mustered in he was rejected on account of his age. He then worked on his father's farm a year, and in 1862 again enlisted as a private in Company F, Eighty-eighth Indiana Infantry. He was with his regiment until after the battle of Chickamauga, when he was detailed at division headquarters as mounted orderly to General Richard W. Johnson, and was with him until after the battle of Nashville, when he was released and accompanied his regiment to Washington, and took part in the grand review at the close of the war. He participated in the battles at Perryville, Ringgold and Tunnel Hill. He was discharged June 20, 1865, and returned to his father's farm in Allen County.



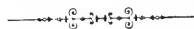
ALLEXANDER W. LUDLUM, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Warren County, Ohio, September 30, 1831, son of Hamilton and Janetia (Wilson) Ludlum, also natives of Ohio. His grandparents came to Ohio from New Jersey. He was reared in his native county until he reached the age of eighteen years, then came to Union County, this State, and served an apprenticeship of three years at the carpenter's trade. He returned to Ohio and remained about a year, then came back to Indiana, where he remained until the spring of 1855. He was at that time engaged in building an academy there; but a money panic occurred and the work was suspended. He then went back to Ohio, and the following autumn returned to Indiana. In the fall of 1859 he came to Blackford County, and the following spring purchased eighty acres of land, forty acres being cleared, and some ordinary improvements had been made. He afterward added another eighty acres; and after giving land

to his two children, has eighty acres in his home farm, with about fifty acres of clearing. He was married October 28, 1855, to Miss Esther Brannon, a native of Fayette County, this State, and daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Ball) Brannon. Her father was born in the South, and the mother in Windsor County, Vermont. They were married in Missonri, and afterward lived in Franklin, Union and Fayette counties, Indiana, and finally, in 1852, removed to Wells County. Her father died January 12, 1877, and the mother still resides in Chester Township. Mr. and Mrs. Ludlum have had four children, of whom two, Nancy Jane and William F., are deceased. Those living are—Marietta, wife of Joseph A. Jarrett, residing in Chester Township, and Edward J., who married Adalina C. Stout, also residing in Chester Township. Mr. Ludlum's parents died in Warren County, Ohio, the mother, June 5, 1840, and the father, in August, 1858. In politics he is a Republican. Mrs. Ludlum is a member of the Methodist church.



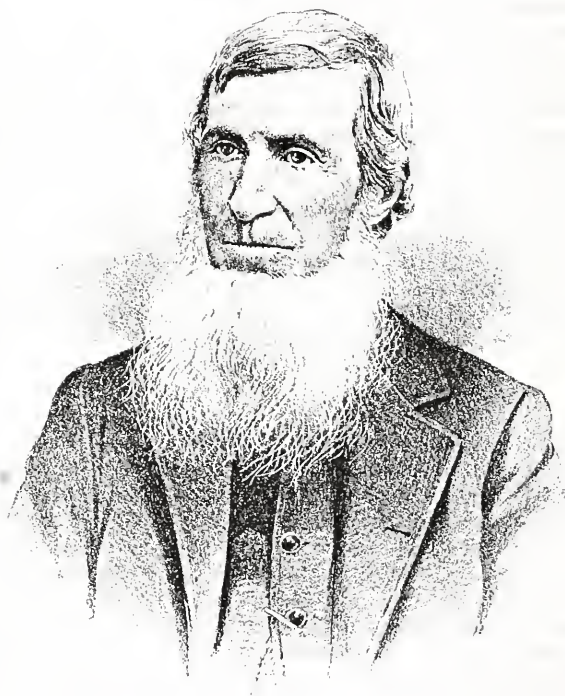
DOAH BERGMAN, M. D., of Toecin, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and with his parents, George and Matilda (Sager) Bergman, came to Jay County, this State, in 1848, locating on a farm. Our subject received his classical education at "College Corner" in that county, and graduated at that college in 1867. For seven years he was engaged in teaching in Jay County, and in 1873 began the study of medicine under the tutelage of Drs. Jay and Stevenson, of Bryant Station. He matriculated at the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1874, and graduated there in 1875. In 1876 he located in Berne, Adams County, where he practiced his pro-

fession eight years. When the new town of Toecin was surveyed he made a location in the village, and may be accorded the honor of being the first physician to locate inside her limits. He is a gentleman of talent and education, and has enjoyed three years of successful practice in his new home. He was married March 12, 1875, to Miss Euphemia McDonald, of Bryant Station, Indiana. She is a native of Canada, and a daughter of Alexander and Georgiana McDonald, of Scotch ancestry. They have three children—Mary A., Ora D. and William H.



GEORGE WASHINGTON GRIMES, engaged in manufacturing and dealing in boilers, engines, mill machinery and architectural iron-work, at Bluffton, is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born in Harrison Township, in the vicinity of Bluffton, August 14, 1856. His parents, Charles and Martha (Lanning) Grimes, were natives of Ohio, the father born in Washington County, of English and Scotch ancestry, and the mother born in Guernsey County, of English parentage. They were married in 1840, and to them were born seven children of whom our subject was the fourth son. He and a sister, Amy, wife of Marcellus Alexander, of Bluffton, are the only surviving members of the family. The children deceased are—Cynthia, who died at the age of seven years; William S., who was a physician of Andrews, Huntington County, died February 22, 1870, aged twenty-eight years; Sarah died February 2, 1871, aged twenty-one years; John L. died in March, 1875, aged twenty-eight years, and Benjamin F. died at the age of eighteen years, May 12, 1880. The father came to Wells County, Indiana, in 1841, and settled on a farm in Harrison Township, where he

followed farming until his death, September 4, 1874. He was a Democrat in politics, and a prominent man in his township, of which he was justice of the peace a number of years. At one time he ran for treasurer of Wells County, but was defeated by only two votes. He was an active member of the Baptist church, and it was mainly through his efforts that the Baptist church at Bluffton was built. He was a deacon in his church for many years. The mother was also an active member of the Bluffton Baptist church. After the death of her husband she continued to reside on the homestead in Harrison Township until her death, which occurred March 28, 1878, at the age of sixty-one years. George W. Grimes, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm, receiving his early education in the district schools of Harrison Township. He subsequently took a course at the Bluffton High School, and in 1878 took a commercial course at Nelson's Commercial College at Cincinnati, Ohio. In August, 1879, he opened a bakery at Bluffton, which he carried on till the following December, when he engaged in the business which he still follows, and is meeting with good success in this enterprise. June 9, 1881, he was married at Bluffton to Miss Aurie B. Mason, a daughter of Leonidas Mason, M. D., of Bluffton. She was reared principally in Wells County, receiving good educational advantages. She graduated from the Bluffton High School in the class of 1878, and is also a graduate of the Oxford College, of Oxford, Ohio, graduating from there in the class of 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Grimes are the parents of two children—Lena, born at Bluffton, November 15, 1883, and John Leo, born at Bluffton, July 10, 1886. In politics Mr. Grimes affiliates with the Democratic party. He is a charter member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 92, K. of P., of which he has passed all



Wm Kirkwood sr

the chairs, and is a member of the grand lodge of the State. He is also a Knight of Honor and has passed all the chairs of Bluffton Lodge, No. 1838, and is a member of the grand lodge of the State of Indiana.

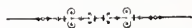
JONATHAN STAYER, farmer and stock-raiser, Rock Creek Township, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, August 28, 1825, a son of Henry and Anna (Swatzell) Stayer, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent, the former a son of Adam Stayer, and the latter a daughter of Henry Swatzell. Adam Stayer was one of the first settlers of Preble County, Ohio, and our subject's parents were among the first settlers of Montgomery County. Jonathan Stayer was reared on a farm in his native county, and received his education mainly by private study during his leisure hours. He lived with his parents until reaching his majority, when, in 1846, he was married to Miss Sarah Rhoads, who was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, of German ancestry, and was a daughter of John Rhoads. After his marriage Mr. Stayer followed farming in Montgomery County for five years. Mrs. Stayer died in 1851, and in September, 1854, he married Miss Minerva Hoops, a daughter of Evan and Susannah (Sheets) Hoops, who were natives of Virginia and of English ancestry. They settled in Montgomery County, Ohio, in an early day, where Mrs. Stayer was born. In August, 1857, Mr. Stayer came with his family to Wells County, and purchased 160 acres of heavily timbered land, which he began to clear and improve, and by persevering industry and years of toil he has brought his farm under a high state of cultivation, and has added to his original purchase until he now has 280

acres, all of which is well improved. He began life with limited means, but by his indomitable energy combined with good management he has succeeded in accumulating his present fine property. In politics he casts his suffrage with the Democratic party. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, and respected citizens of Rock Creek Township. By his first marriage Mr. Stayer had three children—Lydia, deceased, was the wife of Isaac Langle; Mary is the wife of Jacob Wolfgahn, and Sarah is the wife of James Lesh. To his second marriage were born nine children—Eliza, widow of Allen Oldfather; Lizzie, wife of Emanuel Miller; Amanda, wife of Jonathan Bender; Ellen, widow of Philip Eichhorn; John, living on the old homestead, married Ellen Miller, and four who died in infancy.

WILLIAM KIRKWOOD, Sr., a prominent citizen of Nottingham Township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Franklin County, January 15, 1820, the youngest son of William and Sophia (Goshard) Kirkwood. The father of our subject was born in County Dublin, Ireland, a son of William Kirkwood, who immigrated to America with his family when his son William was three years old, settling in the State of Pennsylvania. There the father of our subject grew to manhood, and married, his wife being a native of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. They were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom reached maturity, and four still survive. The father was a farmer by occupation, and followed agricultural pursuits in Pennsylvania until his death in 1823. His widow moved to Ross County, Ohio, with her family in 1834, and five years later settled in Fairfield County, of

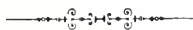
the same State, where she died at the age of ninety years. The mother being in limited circumstances after the death of her husband, our subject was obliged to earn his own living from an early age, and when sixteen years old went to learn the fanner's trade in Ross County, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He then worked as a journeyman in Fairfield County for four years. In 1843 he was united in marriage to Miss Susannah Gehrett, a daughter of Henry and Susannah (Feon) Gehrett, who left Berks County, Pennsylvania, for Ohio when Mrs. Kirkwood was a child. To this union the following children have been born—Henry, George, Samuel, Mary Ann, Sophia, John E., William, Susan and Cerilda. About the year 1843 Mr. Kirkwood engaged in business for himself in Fairfield County, in company with his brother-in-law, with whom he was associated for seven years. In the fall of 1850 he immigrated to Wells County, Indiana, landing in Nottingham Township, where he purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land on section 14. He at once commenced to clear his land, on which he settled, and in connection with clearing and making improvements on his place he followed his trade for seven years. In 1851 he purchased an additional eighty acres, and ten years later added another eighty-acre tract, all wild land, which he cleared and improved, and by years of toil and close attention to his pursuits he has acquired a competence for his declining years, and surrounded his family with all the necessary comforts of life. In 1852 Mr. Kirkwood was elected to the office of county commissioner, serving in that capacity one term. Later he served two terms as township trustee. In 1874 he was again elected county commissioner, which office he filled three years with honor to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his con-

stituents. Mr. Kirkwood is a Democrat, and is an ardent supporter of the principles of that party. Mrs. Kirkwood is a consistent member of the German Baptist church.



JEVI HUFFMAN, an enterprising farmer and stock-raiser of Jackson Township, residing on section 3, was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, October 20, 1850, a son of Henry and Catherine (Baker) Huffman, who were old and honored pioneers of the county. He was reared on the home farm, and has always followed the avocation of a farmer. He was married December 31, 1874, to Miss Martha Ann Coleman, who was born in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, Indiana, a daughter of William and Mary Ann (McKee) Coleman, and to this union have been born two children—Ardella May and Josie Alma. Mr. Huffman's first purchase was forty acres of wild timbered land in Blackford County, Indiana, to which he afterward added forty acres. He subsequently sold his Blackford County land and bought 170½ acres of the farm where he now resides, of which about 130 acres was cleared. He lived with his parents about a year after his marriage, when he located on his farm in Jackson Township, but in the spring preceeding their death, in 1884, he returned to the old homestead, where he has since resided. He is now the owner of 258 acres of valuable land, which is located in Jackson and Chester townships, and has about 230 acres cleared and under improvement. In connection with his general farming he devotes considerable attention to stock-raising, in which enterprise he is meeting with success. In politics Mr. Huffman casts his suffrage with the Republican party. He and his wife are members of the German

Baptist church. Mrs. Huffman's father was born on the ocean while his parents were emigrating from Germany. He was reared in Preble County, Ohio, and was there married to Miss Mary Ann McKee, a native of Preble County. They were the parents of seven sons and three daughters—Daniel, James, Andrew, Jacob, Josiah, David, William (deceased), Catherine, wife of Harvey Gephart; Margaret, wife of Lemuel Colbert, and Mrs. Huffman. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman were among the first settlers of this part of the country, coming by team from Ohio to Huntington County, Indiana, when they settled in Salamonie Township, across the line from Wells County. Mr. Coleman had previously entered the land and put up a shanty, in which he and his wife lived until their death. Their nearest neighbor in the early days of their settlement lived sixteen miles from them. Mrs. Coleman died February 25, 1869, her husband surviving until February 24, 1873. Both were members of the Presbyterian church, and respected members of society. Politically Mr. Coleman affiliated with the Republican party until his death.

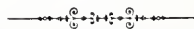


JAMES DAILEY, one of Wells County's pioneers and one of its prominent men, was born in Salem, New Jersey, September 24, 1815, a son of James and Mary Ann (Miller) Dailey, both of whom were born in the State of New Jersey. In 1827 the family emigrated to Cincinnati, Ohio, and the following year removed to Franklin County, Indiana, settling in the wilderness of that county, and there our subject grew to manhood, his youth being spent in hard labor, assisting to clear the home farm. He received a rudimentary education in the subscription schools of that early day, but being

of a studious nature he is in a large degree a self-educated man. Before reaching manhood he had qualified himself to teach. The first money he earned for himself after reaching the age of twenty-one years was made in teaching school in the neighborhood in which he lived. After this his time, until coming to Wells County, was spent in teaching school and working at the carpenter's trade. He was first married in Franklin County, November 1, 1837, to Lydia Garton, a daughter of Jonathan Garton, and to them were born five children—Charles, of Lancaster Township; Lewis was First Lieutenant of Company I, Twenty-second Indiana Infantry, during the late war, being the youngest officer in his regiment, and died in his twentieth year at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas; Joseph S., a prominent attorney at Bluffton; Mary Ann died after reaching maturity, and Rachel, wife of Thomas J. Sowards, of Lancaster Township, all the children but Charles having been born in Wells County. He came to Wells County in March, 1842, with his wife and one child, having but 75 cents in cash when he reached here. His first home was on rented land on section 10, Lancaster Township, of which only five acres had been cleared. After living on this land one season he removed to a forty-acre tract of heavily-timbered land on section 21 of the same township, which he bought on credit, living here seven years, his time being occupied in improving his property, teaching school and working at the carpenter's trade. His wife died on this property February 13, 1850, in her thirtieth year. Mr. Dailey was again married in Adams County April 22, 1851, to Adeline Niblick, a native of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, born November 9, 1829. Her parents, James and Anna (Carter) Niblick, were pioneers of Adams County, making their home three and a half miles west of the

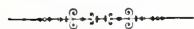
present site of Decatur, November 9, 1838, her mother dying there August 12, 1840, aged thirty-nine years. Her father was married again to Miss Sarah Ball, and to this union were born five children—DeWitt Clinton, Elizabeth, Rachel, Emily and Mary, all with the exception of Emily and Mary living in Chicago, Illinois. Emily resides at Toledo, Ohio, and Mary lives at Bluffton, Wells County. By his first marriage Mr. Niblick had five children—Adeline, wife of our subject, and Robert, Jesse, Susan and Caroline, residents of Adams County. Eleven children have been born to the second marriage of Mr. Dailey, as follows—Edgar, living with his parents; James, of Bluffton; Edessa, wife of Lemuel Sturgis, died, leaving one child named James D., who has been taken to the home of Mr. Dailey; Dora, wife of Benjamin Hooper; Augusta, wife of Peter Hartman, of Adams County; Robert M., of Lancaster Township; Nellie, at home; Willard died in his nineteenth year; Adeline, John and Jesse, the three last attending school. Mr. Dailey has met with success in his farming operations, and by his own efforts has accumulated his present fine property in Lancaster Township, consisting of 160 acres of improved land, 100 acres being under good cultivation. Mr. Dailey was early recognized by his fellow-citizens as fitted for positions of honor and trust, who in 1845 elected him magistrate, which office he filled until 1850. He was then elected county auditor, and removed to Bluffton to attend to the duties of that office, serving in that capacity two terms. In 1850 he was one of the Deputy United States Marshals who took the census of Wells County. In 1865-'66 he was the deputy and acting sheriff of the county. He served as a member of the school board of Bluffton for several years. In 1867 he removed from Bluffton to his present resi-

dence on section 11, Lancaster Township. He has held the office of magistrate in Lancaster Township four years, besides serving in several minor offices. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and while living in Bluffton was a member of the Odd Fellows order. In politics he is a Democrat, voting that ticket since the days of Andrew Jackson. Of his brothers and sisters, Samuel M., formerly a resident of Wells County, now lives in Arkansas; three sisters, Mrs. Emily High, Mrs. Elizabeth High and Mrs. Margaret Sutton, died in Wells County; Mrs. Hannah Reed lives in Miami County, Indiana; Joseph died in Franklin County, and Mrs. Susan Allen died in Decatur County, Indiana.



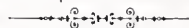
TRA NEFF, of Harrison Township; was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 9, 1833, son of William and Eleanor Neff. His father was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. He removed to Ohio with his parents when a boy. The mother was a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Nicholas Lape. Our subject was reared on a farm and remained with his parents until he reached his majority. April 8, 1854, he was married to Miss Margaret Stout, daughter of Jonathan and Nancy (Christian) Stout, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio. Her parents were born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. After his marriage Mr. Neff settled upon a small farm and built the first house in Stoutville, and laid out an addition to the town. He was engaged in the mercantile trade two years, then sold his property in the village and purchased an interest in the old homestead. One year later he again sold out and erected a hotel in Stoutville,

which he conducted over eight years, then sold and removed to Monroe, Indiana. He lived there one year, then came to Wells County in 1869, and purchased forty acres of partially improved land on section 29, Harrison Township, where he engaged in farming. He subsequently purchased 100 acres on section 8, and devoted his attention exclusively to farming until 1883, when he turned his attention to horticulture. He has ten acres in small fruits and garden, and it has proved a successful enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. Neff have seven children—Catherine, wife of Charles Stahl; Isidore, wife of Lewis Hedges, of Harrison Township; Amos H., a telegraph operator; Luella, Stella G., Minnie and Charles F. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, and in politics Mr. Neff is a Democrat.



GEORGE MIXELL, hotel and livery keeper at Uniondale, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, December 16, 1853, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Martin) Mixell, natives of Pennsylvania. In 1854 the family removed to Stark County, and a few months later to Wells County, Indiana, settling at Bluffton. Four years afterward they removed to a farm near the then small town. In 1860 the father purchased a small farm in Rock Creek Township, where he built a house and passed the remainder of his days. His wife is living with her son Joseph. Their children were—Lucy, Catherine, George, Joseph and Daniel. Catherine married David Scott, who is deceased; Lucy married Charles Osgood, and is also deceased; Joseph married Harriet Wolf, and resides on the old homestead. George was employed in the milling business in this county several years during his early life. November 27,

1826, he married Miss Sadie, daughter of Benjamin and Susan Netterfield, Rev. McCormack performing the ceremony. They commenced their married life in the little village of Greenwood, and the next year removed to a farm in Rock Creek Township. One year later they returned to Greenwood, and in 1883 Mr. Mixell built a commodious residence in Uniondale. In 1884 its hospitable doors were thrown open to the traveling public, and it became the first hotel in the thriving village of Uniondale. In connection with this hotel Mr. Mixell has a nice livery, and enjoys the distinction of being the first in that business. Mr. and Mrs. Mixell have had four children—Effie and Lucy are living, Freddie and Bessie are deceased. Lucy, the youngest, was born in the new hotel, and Effie on the farm in Rock Creek Township. The two deceased were born in Greenwood. Mr. Mixell is a popular host, and his estimable wife is one of the best landladies. Their home affords fine accommodations for a village of the size of Uniondale, and the weary traveler finds there a warm welcome and the best of cheer. Mrs. Mixell was born in Ashtabula County, Ohio, near Jefferson. She had eleven brothers and sisters, all of whom came to Indiana that are living. Harmon Northfield, the eldest brother, in the winter of 1857, held the fortunate number that drew \$15,000 cash in the Louisiana State Lottery. He is a resident of Greenwood, where the mother still lives.



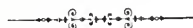
JOHN J. HUFFMAN, a son of Henry and Catharine (Baker) Huffman, was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, on the old Huffman homestead, the date of his birth being March 25, 1847. He grew to manhood in his native township,

and his father being a farmer, was also reared to agricultural pursuits, which he has followed through life. He was united in marriage November 28, 1868, to Miss Sarah Caroline Payne, who was born in Salamonie Township, Huntington County, a daughter of William and Charity (Swain) Payne, her mother being a daughter of John and Elizabeth Swain. Mrs. Huffman's parents were married in North Carolina, and were among the early settlers of Huntington County, Indiana, coming to this State by team. They lived in Huntington County until their death, the mother dying April 10, 1861, and the father January 19, 1864. They were the parents of seven children—John Wilson, born January 22, 1841, died August 11, 1855; Isaac Baxter, born November 26, 1842, resides in East Warren; Elizabeth Catherine, born January 5, 1845, died November 7, 1864; Mahala Jane, born August 20, 1848, died October 3, 1874; Sarah Caroline, born November 2, 1850, wife of our subject; David Franklin, born January 10, 1853, lives in Salamonie Township, and William Low, born June 30, 1854, died September 4, 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are the parents of three children—Charles Melville, born September 2, 1869; Isaac Franklin, born January 28, 1871, and Austin Ralph, born December 17, 1873. Shortly after his marriage, John J. Huffman, the subject of this sketch, removed to Huntington County, where he lived on rented land in Salamonie Township from the spring to the fall of the same year. He then rented land in another part of the same township, on which he resided three years, when he returned to Wells County, and after living three months in Chester Township he came to Jackson Township, where he made his home for three years. He then returned to Salamonie Township, Huntington County,

where he bought eighty acres, on which he has since made his home. Since then he has added twenty acres to his original purchase, his farm now containing 100 acres of choice land. In the spring of 1885 he erected a handsome two-story residence, 30 x 42 feet in size, and in the spring of 1887 he built his present fine, commodious barn. He is a practical farmer, as his surroundings plainly indicate, and by his quiet, unassuming manners and honorable dealings he has gained the confidence and esteem of the entire community. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are members of the Pleasant Hill Christian church. Politically he is a Democrat. Post-office, Warren, Huntington County.

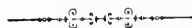
CHARLES MARCHANT MILLER is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born near Murray, Lancaster Township, May 20, 1851. He is the third of five sons and one of ten children of Jacob and Mary (Sutton) Miller. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, of German ancestry, and came to Wells County in 1837. He is by trade a millwright, but was employed as a miller when he first came to the county, afterward settling on a farm in Lancaster Township, where he still lives. The mother of our subject is a native of Licking County, Ohio, a daughter of Rev. Elijah Sutton, a pioneer Baptist minister of Wells County. Charles M. Miller lived on the home farm until seventeen years of age, where he was variously employed, teaching school during the winter seasons. At his own expense he attended the graded schools of Bluffton, and in 1873, with James Sewell, engaged in the mercantile business at Murray, the firm of Miller & Sewell continuing until the following fall, when L. F. Shreve succeeded Mr. Sewell. In 1879

he retired from the firm, and the following year was employed as clerk for G. F. McFarsen. From 1880 until 1883 he was in the employ of H. C. Arnold, and from 1883 until 1886 was in the grocery business at Bluffton, and in the latter year he was employed by H. C. Arnold to buy grain. In November, 1886, he was elected auditor of Wells County, his duties beginning in November, 1887. Mr. Miller was married September 27, 1877, to Miss Lizzie Borgan, a native of Wells County, daughter of George and Sarah (Widner) Borgan. They have one child—Guy Borgan, born July 18, 1878. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Miller is a member of the Masonic fraternity, a member of both lodge and chapter at Bluffton.



PHILIP BRANER, deceased, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, July 15, 1815, a son of Simon and Elizabeth (Maddox) Braner, who were natives of the State of Pennsylvania, the father being of German ancestry. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, and followed the avocation of a farmer through life. His education was such as could be obtained in the rude log cabin subscription schools of that early day. He remained under the home roof with his parents until his marriage, September 19, 1839, to Miss Sarah Fogle. She was born in Greene County, Ohio, November 4, 1819, a daughter of Jacob and Mary W. (Braner) Fogle, her father being a native of Germany, coming to America when a child, and her mother being a native of the State of Pennsylvania. They were among the pioneers of Greene County. After his marriage Mr. Braner followed farming in Montgomery County until 1842, when he

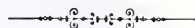
came with his family to Wells County, Indiana, and purchased forty acres of heavily timbered land on section 27, Rock Creek Township, which he began immediately to clear and improve. They came to the county in limited circumstances, and in exchange for part of their land they gave two horses and one cow, while they cleared land to pay for the balance. Here they experienced all of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, and by years of toil and persevering energy they cleared their land and added to it at different times until they now own 240 acres of improved land under good cultivation. Mr. Braner was one of the public-spirited men of his township and always took an interest in public affairs, and for a time served as township trustee. His death, which occurred April 16, 1885, was a source of universal regret. He left a widow who still resides on the old homestead, and eight children, as follows—Mary A., wife of Philip Jones; Elizabeth, wife of James Ellingham; Jacob married Margaret Miller; Joseph married Jane Capp; Susannah, wife of Jacob C. Maddox; John married Miranda A. Sutton; William married Margaret J. Brown; Martha, wife of Calvin L. Davis.



GEORGE H. SEABOLD, proprietor of Mount Zion Saw-mill, Hoop Factory and Tile Works, is a native of Indiana, born at Fort Wayne, January 15, 1846, a son of Christian and Sarah (Mosier) Seabold. His father was born in Germany, and there he was reared to manhood. When a young man he immigrated to America, and while crossing the ocean his wife, whom he had married in Germany, died. While living in Pennsylvania he was again married, taking for his second wife Sarah Mosier, who was born in

Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. In 1838 they came to Indiana, and located at Fort Wayne, where the father engaged in the grocery business. He died at Fort Wayne, July 11, 1876. George H. Seabold, whose name heads this sketch, was reared and educated in the schools of Fort Wayne. May 5, 1864, he was united in marriage to Miss Melinda Yeager, a native of Germany, who was brought to America when in her fourth year. Fourteen children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Seabold, of whom nine are yet living—Christian Philip Gustave, George Henry, Jr., Rose Amelia, John Albert, Sophie Mary, William Edward, Martha Ann, Ella Melinda and Pearly May. Mr. Seabold commenced life for himself in Fort Wayne as a teamster and contractor, which he followed about two years. He then carried on a grocery until 1876, when he sold out his business and came to Adams County, and remained at Decatur, that county, until April, 1876, removing thence to Vera Cruz or Newville, and engaged in the saw-mill business. In 1882 he came to Mount Zion, where he has since made his home. Here he erected a fine saw-mill, which was destroyed by fire in 1883, when he erected his present buildings. His main building is 24x90 feet, two stories in height. He has a two-story addition, 18x30, and a one-story addition 18x90 feet. The mill is supplied with an engine of twenty-five horse power with cylinder 9x16 feet. This engine supplies the power for the saw-mill, and for the hoop factory in the second story of one addition, and also to heat the dry-kiln of his tile works. He established his tile business in 1885, and since then has been making improvements on the ordinary methods of tile making. He has introduced about 1,000 feet of steam piping, which is supplied with stops so that the steam can be concentrated in any part or

scattered over the entire building. He has an elevator which works automatically, bringing the tile to a certain point, then elevating it to the story above. Mr. Seabold has furnished the entire plant according to his own system, and intends to run his tile works in winter as well as summer. He has been engaged in the manufacture of hoops since 1883, and the hoops made in his factory find a market principally at Marion and Kokomo, Indiana, and Chicago and Aurora, Illinois. The engine-room is supplied with a tank from which the water is pumped by a smaller engine into the boiler, and the water is forced by steam into the tank from a well in the yard. In politics Mr. Seabold casts his suffrage with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, of Bluffton.



DOAN GARRETT, an enterprising farmer of Liberty Township, is a native of Ohio, born in Mahoning County, December 17, 1839, the eldest son of Joseph Garrett. He grew to manhood in Mahoning County, and at the age of sixteen commenced learning the carpenter's trade, at which he served an apprenticeship of six years, after which he followed contracting and building successfully in his native county until coming to Indiana in January, 1861. He was united in marriage December 25, 1860, to Miss Leah Funk, of Wayne County, Ohio, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Rouch) Funk, who were natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett are the parents of four children—I. V. Lester, Allie L., Frank C. and Walter O. I. V. Lester married Fannie Howard, and resides in Liberty Township. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church, and take an



Noah Garrett

active part in all church and Sabbath-school work. He is a member of the Short-horn Association of Wells County, and takes pride in raising fine stock. Mr. Garrett came to Wells County in January, 1861, and purchased eighty acres of timber land, paying for the same \$500, \$300 in cash, and working at his trade until the balance was paid. In August, 1863, he brought his family to his land in Wells County, and in connection with improving his farm he worked at his trade for four years. He then turned his attention to farming and stock-raising, in which he has met with excellent success, owing to his industrious habits and good management. He still devotes considerable attention to raising a high grade of stock. He has acquired, by his own efforts, a fine property, his farm now containing 330 acres of well-improved land, which is under a high state of cultivation. He was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, enlisting October 30, 1864, in Company A, Fifty-third Indiana Infantry. He participated in the battles of Kingston and Goldsboro, North Carolina, and was at the surrender of Johnston's army, at Raleigh, North Carolina. He was in the service of his country until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, July 21, 1865. In politics Mr. Garrett affiliates with the Republican party. He and his family are members of and active workers in the Baptist church.

SAMUEL HUFFMAN, a son of Henry and Catherine (Baker) Huffman, was born on the old Huffman homestead in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, January 3, 1859. He was reared in his native township, remaining at home until 1884, when he bought forty acres of timber land

in Blackford County, to which he afterward added forty acres. In 1883 he bought 100 acres in Jackson Township, where he now lives, and in 1885 built a fine, substantial residence. He has added to his estate until he now has 130 acres, 100 of which are under cultivation. In politics Mr. Huffman is a Democrat, and takes an active interest in the affairs of his party. He has served his township as supervisor two years. He was married in March, 1882, to Lela Miller, a native of Jackson Township, daughter of Joseph and Nancy Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have two children—Isaac and Eldridge. They are members of the Pleasant Hill Christian Church.

JOSEPH ZOOS, a harness-maker at Uniondale, was born in Freiberg, Germany, April 14, 1863, son of Joseph and Emma (Stortz) Zoos, natives of Baden, Germany, who were the parents of seven children—Joseph, Julius, Josephine, Augusta, Philomela, May and Emma. The father was a farmer by occupation, and both parents are still living in the rural districts of Germany. The two sons reside at Uniondale. Mr. Zoos came to America in 1879, when only sixteen years of age, and when he arrived at Fort Wayne had only two cents in his pocket. He owned a German watch, which he sold in that city in order to obtain money to get to his uncle's house, Matthew Zoos, who lived near Geneva, Adams County. The next day after his arrival he apprenticed himself to a Mr. Wachman to learn the trade of harness-maker. A few months later he went to Buena Vista, this State, and opened a shop on his own account. His first stock was purchased on credit, and when he left that village in 1884,

after paying all his debts, he carried away \$750 in cash. He then went to Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, but soon returned, and February 26, 1885, was married in Buena Vista to Miss Louisa, daughter of William and Lizzie (Klingman) Beach, whose acquaintance he had formed while a resident of that place. They came to the new town of Uniondale to commence their domestic life, where Mr. Zoos purchased his property, then unfinished, and within a few days it was ready for occupancy, and he opened the first harness shop in the village. His naturalization papers were drafted October 14, 1884, attested by John D. Hale, clerk of Adams County. In addition to harness-making, he carries on the shoemaker's trade, assisted by his brother Julius, who came to America in 1884, and intends to become a citizen of the United States as soon as he is of legal age. Mr. and Mrs. Zoos have one daughter, an infant. He is successful in his business, and now has a property valued at \$1,200.

BENJAMIN ASHBAUCHER, dealer in pianos, organs and sewing machines at Bluffton, Indiana, is a native of Wayne County, Ohio, born at Orrville, October 19, 1859, the youngest of six sons of John and Anna (Shene) Ashbaucher, natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland, where they were married, and in 1856 came to the United States. They lived in Ohio until 1863, when they moved to French Township, Adams County, Indiana, where they still live. They are members of the German Reformed church at Vera Cruz, Wells County. Benjamin Ashbaucher remained with his parents until 1882, when he entered the employ of H. C. Arnold at Bluffton, and in 1883 engaged in his present busi-

ness. When but seventeen years of age, while still at home, he began to teach in the schools of French Township, and taught five winter and two summer terms. In 1880 he was elected constable of his township by the Democratic party, and served two years. Mr. Ashbaucher was married August 10, 1882, to Miss Louisa Saurer, daughter of Gotlieb and Elizabeth (Moser) Saurer, of French Township, Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. Ashbaucher have one child—Edward, born February 7, 1884. They are members of the English Reformed church at Bluffton. Mr. Ashbaucher is a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 1838, K. of H.

EPHRAIM PERRY, farmer, Chester Township, was born in Washington County, Ohio, October 24, 1834, son of Thomas and Matilda Perry, natives of Ohio. The father was born in Columbiana County, and the mother in Washington County. They were married in that county and lived there until 1848, when they moved, by team, to Indiana. The first year they lived in Blackford County, and in the summer of 1849 removed to this county, where the father purchased 240 acres of land in Chester Township, where he now resides. He afterward bought 260 acres more, making a total of 500 acres. The farm was one unbroken forest, and no improvements had been made. They moved into a pole shanty and worked what is now known as the McCaffrey farm for one year. In the meantime they cleared a place on their own land to build a cabin, and after the buildings were completed the family proceeded to occupy it. They made a permanent home there. Mrs. Perry, the mother, died in 1878. Ephraim was fifteen years old when his parents settled in Wells

County, and he has resided here ever since. He owns 160 acres of land with about eighty-five acres of clearing. When he first made his purchase the land was covered with a heavy growth of timber. He has made all the improvements himself and erected the substantial buildings on the place. He was married, February 3, 1861, to Miss Margaret Elizabeth McConkey, a native of Fayette County, and a daughter of James and Sarah McConkey, early settlers of Wells County, and now residents of Chester Township. Mr. and Mrs. Perry have had four children, of whom one, Charles Clarence, is deceased. The living are—William Marion, who married Miss Laura McIntyre; Mary Ellen, wife of Joseph Ballenger, residing in Grant County, and Eugene. Politically Mr. Perry is a Greenbacker.

GRAFTON ECKHART, farmer and stock-raiser, was born near Logan, Hocking County, Ohio, April 22, 1826, son of Anthony and Catherine (Sheetenhelm) Eckhart, who were natives of Maryland, and of German ancestry. They were among the early settlers of Hocking County, having entered land there. The father held many local offices of trust and responsibility, and served as county assessor under the old constitution. He also served as magistrate many years. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. Anthony and Catherine Eckhart were the parents of eleven children, of whom six are living. The father died March 18, 1859, at the advanced age of eighty-nine years, and the mother died April 18, 1860. Our subject was reared on a farm in his native county, and at the breaking out of the Mexican war he enlisted in Company D, Second Ohio Infantry. He was in the battles of

Matamoras and Buena Vista. After the expiration of his term of enlistment he returned to his native county, and was married September 21, 1848, to Priscilla Mathias, daughter of Abraham and Christina (Zellers) Mathias, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Abraham Mathias was a son of Jacob Mathias, who was born in New York, four weeks after his parents landed in New York. Christina Mathias was a daughter of Jacob Zellers, a native of Pennsylvania and of German descent. After his marriage Mr. Eckhart settled upon a farm three miles west of Logan, where he followed farming until the spring of 1882, then removed to this county and purchased his present farm. Of their eight children, five are living—William O., of this county; Margaret Ann, wife of Patrick Kern, of this county; Martha Ellen, at home; Laverna Elizabeth, a teacher in the public schools of Liberty Township; James Jacob. Mr. Eckhart has a fine farm of 115 acres adjoining the village of Liberty Center, in a good state of cultivation. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren church.

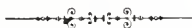
JOSEPH LUDWICK, one of the old and honored pioneers of Wells County, was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, the date of his birth being October 4, 1809. His parents, George and Mary (Miller) Ludwick, were born, reared and married in the State of Virginia. They subsequently removed with their family to Ohio and located in Highland County, where the father died, at the age of ninety-two years, in 1877. The mother yet survives, and is still making her home in Highland County, at the advanced age of ninety-four years. The father of our subject was a soldier in the war of 1812. Joseph Ludwick was reared in his native

State, being twenty-two years of age when he went with his father's family to Highland County, Ohio. After remaining in Highland County two years he came to Indiana and entered eighty acres of timber land in Grant Township, which he immediately began to improve, clearing a space and erecting a log cabin. While there he was married, in April, 1837, to Miss Rachel Malcolm, who was born in Highland County, Ohio, and to this union were born twelve children, of whom two are deceased — Margaret and Franklin Pierce. Those living are—Mary, wife of Andrew Rittenhouse; Sarah, wife of William Richardson; Phoebe, wife of Benjamin Marks; Rachel Ann, wife of George Rosenberger; Almeda, wife of Hardin Frederick; Hannah Isabel, wife of David Pennington; Franklin Pierce, George Samuel, William and Henry. Mr. Ludwick remained in Grant County until 1854, when he came with his family to Jackson Township, Wells County, and bought 166½ acres of land where he now resides. This land was right in the woods and entirely unimproved, except a small log cabin built, but by persevering industry and toil he has cleared 120 acres and converted it into a fine farm. When he first located here this part of Indiana was nothing but a wilderness, his nearest neighbor lived seven miles away, and at that early day the only roads were Indian trails. He well remembers when he had to work over twenty-eight days to pay for a barrel of salt. He has perhaps cleared more land than any man living in this part of Indiana. He has lived to see the many wonderful changes which have taken place, transforming the wilderness into well cultivated fields and prosperous towns, the country studded over with churches and school-houses and excellent roads. In politics Mr. Ludwick has been a life-long Democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Andrew Jackson,

and has held several local offices, serving in all to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

AMUEL GOOD, one of the old and respected pioneers of Jackson Township, who is now deceased, was born in Perry County, Ohio, March 23, 1812, a son of Joseph and Rachel Good, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. They left their native State for Perry County, Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their days. They were the parents of ten children, of whom our subject was the second son and fourth child. He grew to manhood in his native county, where he was reared to the avocation of a farmer on the home farm. He came to Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, in 1838, and entered his claim, after which he returned to Perry County, where he was married in 1839 to Miss Lucy Ann Jonas, who was also a native of Perry County, born January 1, 1816, and to them were born seven children, of whom four sons and two daughters grew to maturity. After his marriage he settled on his land in Jackson Township, where he followed farming until 1852, when he crossed the plains to California. He remained in California until 1856, when he returned to his home in Jackson Township, where his wife had died in August, 1855, during his absence. Mr. Good was again married to Esther Colbert, and of the three children born to this union two are living. Mrs. Good is now the wife of Berket M. Elkins, of Jackson Township. Mr. Good was one of the prosperous agriculturists of Jackson Township, and at one time owned 320 acres of valuable land. He settled on his land on section 20, Jackson Township, when it was entirely unimproved, living in a

rude log cabin, and here he experienced many of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. Game of all kinds was in abundance, and Mr. Good has killed as many as five or six deer in one day. In politics he was a staunch Democrat. He was a prominent man in his township, which he served as justice of the peace several terms, and for several years held the office of assessor. Mr. Good lived on his homestead in Jackson Township until his death, September 30, 1874. He was a member of the Grange, and was buried under the auspices of that organization. In his religious faith he was a Universalist.



WILLIAM WILSON WEISELL, a member of the Bluffton Manufacturing Company, is a native of Tompkins County, New York, born January 26, 1828, a son of Michael G. and Catherine (McIntyre) Weisell, both of whom were born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the father of German descent, and the mother of Scotch and Irish origin. They removed to the State of New York about 1826, and in 1833 removed to Trumbull County, Ohio, where they spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of ten children, only four now living—Eli K., of Warren, Trumbull County, Ohio; Reading, of Lordstown, Trumbull County; William W., the subject of this sketch, and David D., of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The father was a farmer, and also a mechanic, and was engaged in the manufacture of wagons and plows. He was also a practical surveyor. William W. Weisell was reared to agricultural and mechanical pursuits, remaining at home with his parents till reaching the age of twenty-one years. He then went to Warren, Ohio, where he was

engaged in ironing and trimming carriages, and was also employed as a salesman by the same firm for several years. He remained at Warren until about the year 1855, when he returned to the homestead farm, where he worked until 1861. In that year he began buying horses and mules for the Government for the United States Army, continuing in this business during the war. He was drafted into the Union service in 1862, but provided a substitute in the person of Florentine McKay, who served for him three years. Mr. Weisell was united in marriage in September, 1855, in Columbiana County, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Woodward, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Shively) Woodward. They have three children living—Bertha Gertrude, Chloe Luella and William W., Jr., all students at the Bluffton High School. In 1865 he came with his family to Wells County, Indiana, arriving at his destination April 10. He settled on a farm in Jefferson Township, where in connection with farming he was engaged in buying all kinds of live stock, which he drove to the markets of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and occasionally to Buffalo and New York City. In 1872 he was elected sheriff of Wells County, and re-elected in 1874, holding that office two terms of two years each. In 1873 he became a resident of Bluffton, where he has since made his home. After the expiration of his term of office as sheriff, he, in 1876, began manufacturing tow from flax for the Southern markets, and was so engaged until 1881, when his factory was destroyed by fire, this being his second loss from fire. While purchasing horses for the army he lost eighteen horses by being burned to death in a barn in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. In 1881 he became associated with T. Horton and W. I. Fitch in manufacturing corn-planters and washing-machines, the name of the firm being

T. Horton & Co. In 1884 this company was changed to the Bluffton Manufacturing Company, the members of the company being W. W. Weisell, W. I. Fitch and Lee S. Kapp, all energetic business men. Mr. Weisell is a Master Mason, and a member of the Bluffton Lodge, No. 145. Mrs. Weisell is a member of the Bluffton Methodist Episcopal church.

JOSEPHUS C. RINEHART, of Zanesville, is the youngest living son of David and Mary A. (Kain) Rinehart, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Washington County, and the latter in Fayette County. The father of David was accidentally killed in Pennsylvania, and his wife with her children removed to Tuscarawas County, Ohio. In that county David married Mary Kain, and they remained in that State for several years. David was a blacksmith by trade, and he owned and operated a smithy at Rogersville. Four children were born in Ohio—James A., John K., Nancy J. and Daniel K. After they settled in Wells County, in 1850, two other children were born—Josephus C. and George F. A small improvement had been made upon the land which David purchased. It was included in the Indian Reserve, and the lands were only open for settlement a short time previous to Mr. Rinehart's arrival. Jacob Miller, the second owner, built a cabin that stood within a few feet of the present mansion. James Hixon had entered the land, but had made no improvements. In October, 1850, David with his family landed in Zanesville, and a short time afterward came to the farm where they resided until 1881, when the parents removed to Bluffton. Two years later the mother died, followed in December, 1885, by the death of the father. The children all received a good

education, and the three older brothers were teachers. John holds the office of deputy circuit clerk of Wells County. He studied law with Judge Saylor, and was admitted to the bar. Only four of the children are living, and all are married—James A. is the husband of Nancy J. Newhouse, and resides in Mahaska County, Iowa; John K. resides at Bluffton; Daniel is the husband of Mattie Wilkerson, and also resides at Bluffton; Josephus married Jennie Robertson, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Boodley) Robertson, Rev. Isaac Markley performing the ceremony September 28, 1879. They settled on the home farm, since which time Mr. Rinehart has purchased a three-fourths interest in the land. They have one daughter, Mollie O., born August 13, 1883. Mrs. Rinehart was born in Allen County, this State. Her parents came from Warren County, Ohio, in 1854. They had five children—Franklin P., William H., Ellen B., Edward B. and Phebe J. Allen Rinehart was a soldier during the late war, serving as Orderly Sergeant in the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and remaining until the close of the war. John K. was drafted, but procured a substitute and returned home. The handsome farm is a monument to the memory of David Rinehart and his noble wife, for the great fields were cleared and the handsome buildings erected during their lifetime. They lived to see the country well developed and their children well settled in life.

JOHN J. GOOD, son of Samuel and Lucy Ann Good, was born on his father's homestead in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, February 4, 1842. He grew to manhood on the home farm, and received his education in the common schools



Geo. L. Warner

of his neighborhood, and by study at home. He commenced teaching school at the age of nineteen years, following that avocation eight school terms. He remained at home until twenty-four years of age, when he entered the employ of F. A. Pulse, as clerk in his general store at Warren, where he remained twelve years, and during this time lost only twenty-seven days. He is still a resident of Warren, Huntington County, and is at present devoting his time to agricultural pursuits, being now the owner of a good farm of 171 acres of well-cultivated land. Mr. Good was married in October, 1874, to Miss Mira A. Coles, who was born in Sidney, Ohio, in November, 1848. They are the parents of six children—Robert E., Ralph H., Effie, Lola, Otto B. and Nellie. Mr. Good is a member of King Lodge, No. 246, A. F. & A. M., at Warren.

GEORGE L. WARNER, one of the prominent farmers of Nottingham Township, is a native of Ohio, born in Pickaway County, October 27, 1837, the eldest son of Jacob and Rebecca (Gilbert) Warner. The father was a native of the same county, born November 17, 1812, the eldest son of Leonard and Susan (Gephart) Warner, who were natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania, and among the first settlers of Pickaway County. The mother of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania, born March 16, 1816. Her parents died when she was a child, and she accompanied a married sister to Ohio, where she grew to womanhood. In the fall of 1838 the parents of our subject moved to Wells County, Indiana, and entered 160 acres of Government land on section 1, Nottingham Township, which they improved, making it their home until after the death of the mother,

which occurred March 25, 1848. They were the parents of six children—George L., Jonathan, Daniel (deceased), David, Thomas B. (deceased), and one who died in infancy. The father subsequently married Mrs. Sarah (Gehrett) Stont, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and to them were born ten children—Rebecca, Sammel, Jacob, Henry, Eva, Andrew (deceased), George W. and Andrew J. (twins), Susan and Sarah (twins). After his second marriage the father sold his farm and purchased 320 acres of heavily timbered land which he cleared and improved and made his home until his death, which occurred March 17, 1887. He was a member of the German Baptist church. In politics he was a Democrat, and served as trustee of his township several years. George L. Warner was an infant when his parents came to Wells County, where he grew to manhood, remaining with his parents until his marriage. He then located on section 14, Nottingham Township, where he has improved a fine farm of 160 acres, and in connection with his farming pursuits has been engaged in the manufacture of tile. His residence is a large brick structure, the finest in the township, which he erected in 1883. Mr. Warner, like his father, affiliates with the Democratic party. He has been a prominent man in his township, and has been honored by his fellow townsmen with various positions of trust and responsibility. From 1872 until 1877 he served as trustee of Nottingham Township, and from 1882 until 1885 as county commissioner. Mr. Warner was married October 29, 1859, to Susannah Shoemaker, who was born January 29, 1838, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Gehrett) Shoemaker, who came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1853 and settled in Nottingham Township, Wells County, where they have since lived. Jacob Shoemaker was born August 17, 1813, and his wife, Elizabeth

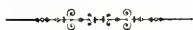
(Gehrett) Shoemaker, was born March 11, 1814. Mr. and Mrs. Warner are the parents of four children—Rebecca, born August 30, 1860, died September 23, 1860; Malinda E., born July 17, 1861; Jacob A., born August 23, 1863; Lucinda Alice, born June 27, 1865. Mr. Warner is one of the respected citizens of Nottingham Township.

ADDISON C. RANDALL, residing on section 24, Lancaster Township, where he owns one of the best improved farms in his part of the county, is a native of Lockport, New York, the date of his birth being July 4, 1823. He is the fourth in a family of five children of Joseph and Maria Randall, his parents being natives of the State of New York, where they spent their lives. Our subject was reared on a farm. At the age of nine years he was bound out to service until reaching the age of nineteen years, and during this time was given good educational advantages. On attaining the age of nineteen years he became his own master, and began working as a farm laborer. He remained in his native State until 1843, when he came to Wells County, Indiana, where he was first employed by the month at farm labor. As soon as he was able he purchased a team, and engaged in teaming between Fort Wayne, Cincinnati and Bluffton. In 1847 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Starr, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1827, a daughter of Ingall Starr. They lived most of the time in Bluffton, where Mr. Randall owned a house and lot, until removing to Lancaster Township in 1861, when they settled on the farm which is still owned and occupied by Mr. Randall. He purchased the land for \$10 per acre, twenty acres of which had been cleared and

a log cabin erected. Here his wife died December 10, 1866. Six children were born to them—George, of Harrison Township; Addison died aged two years; William, living at Bluffton; Mrs. Maria Clowson, of Craigville; Frank at home, and David, a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan. Frank Randall was born June 23, 1859, and married May 16, 1885, to Miss Loretta Bowman, who was born in French Township, Adams County, October 9, 1863, her father, Gideon Bowman, being still a resident of that township. They are the parents of one child, Elva, born April 30, 1886. For his second wife Mr. Randall married Mrs. Harriet Clark in 1869, a daughter of Aaron Wisner, a native of Ohio, and a pioneer of Wells County. She was the widow of John Clark. By her marriage with Mr. Randall she had one child, Sarah E., who died aged two months. Mrs. Randall died September 13, 1875. Mr. Randall has met with excellent success in his farming operations, and is the owner of 170 acres, 130 acres of his land being under a high state of cultivation. In connection with his farming he devotes some attention to stock raising, in which he has been quite successful. In politics Mr. Randall affiliates with the Democratic party.

SIDNEY M. DILLMAN, general blacksmith and dealer in hardware at Dillman, Jackson Township, Wells County, was born in Brown County, Ohio, March 23, 1854, a son of Andrew and Sarah Dillman. When but six weeks old he was brought by his parents to Wells County, Indiana, they locating on a farm in Jackson Township, and here he grew to manhood, his youth being spent in assisting his father on the farm, and attending the district school, where he re-

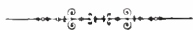
ceived but a limited education. March 11, 1876, he was married to Miss Alice Lemon, a native of Ohio, born in Hamilton County, April 7, 1857, a daughter of Lewis and Eva (Herring) Lemon, who were also born in the State of Ohio. In March, 1860, Mr. Lemon came with his family to Indiana, and settled in Van Buren Township, Grant County, where he still makes his home. He was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, serving in the Union army three years. Mr. and Mrs. Dillman are the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters. Mr. Dillman remained on the home farm until 1880, when he located in Dillman, where he has since resided. After his marriage he engaged in painting, which he followed until 1880, since which time he has followed blacksmithing at Dillman. In 1887 he began dealing in hardware, in which he is still engaged in connection with his blacksmithing. Mr. Dillman has met with success in his various enterprises, and is now the owner of his shop, and the neat, substantial residence occupied by his family, which was built in the summer of 1881 at a cost of \$500. Mrs. Dillman is a member of the Christian church.



WILLIAM CARNES, County Commissioner of Wells County, was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, the date of his birth being June 29, 1828. His parents, John and Ann (Bell) Carnes, were natives of Ireland, where they were reared and married. On coming to America they lived for a time in New York, and from there moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A few years later they removed to Guernsey County, Ohio, where they lived till their death, the mother dying in 1838, and the father in 1857. William

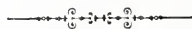
was reared in his native county, and was early in life inured to hard work. His youth was spent in assisting his father clear his farm, and after that had been cleared he assisted in clearing several other farms. September 28, 1854, he married Miss Hannah Booth who was born and reared in Guernsey County, Ohio, a daughter of Thomas and Susannah (Latherow) Booth. Of the eleven children born to this union ten yet survive—Susan, wife of John O. Houser, of Poneto, Wells County; Robert F. married Eliza Eleanor Speece; Sarah Elizabeth, wife of Jasper Meriman, of Wells County; John married Eliza E. Harris; Thomas married Hannah Miller; William Henry, George W., Oscar, Mary Etta and Myrtle Alice. La Fayette is deceased. In the month following his marriage Mr. Carnes came to Wells County, Indiana, and located on a tract of eighty-four acres in Chester Township, which he had previously purchased, and at once began clearing a space, and with the timber thus cut down he built his cabin. The country was in a state of nature, not even a road leading to his place, he being obliged to cut one before getting to it. His wife with her parents followed soon after, and by the time they arrived he had his new home ready for occupancy. He has by hard toil and persevering energy made from his pioneer home in the wilderness, a well-improved farm, having now a comfortable and commodious dwelling and good farm buildings, and the surroundings of the place show the owner to be a thorough practical farmer. His farm consists of 120 acres, of which about ninety acres is cleared and brought under cultivation. Politically Mr. Carnes is a Democrat. In 1857 he was elected road supervisor, and since then has served in that capacity eight or ten times. He is the only man in Chester Township who has held the office of road superintendent. At the

November election of 1884 he was elected commissioner of Wells County, and during his term of office more work of a public nature has been done than has been accomplished in any term before. Since Mr. Carnes has held this office, two bridges have been built in Union, one in Liberty and one in Nottingham Township, and an abutment has been built to the bridge across the Salamonie River in Jackson Township. The new bridge at Bluffton is the largest and finest in the county, and one of the best to be found throughout the State of Indiana.



JAMES MCCKEY, a retired farmer, Chester Township, was born in Fayette County, Ohio, October 6, 1819, son of James and Jemima (Burt) McConkey, the former a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His parents were married in Ohio, and when he was a small child he had the misfortune to lose his mother by death. His father then removed to Fayette County, Indiana, which was then entirely new, and they were among the pioneers of that county. The father afterward removed to Henry County, where he passed the remainder of his days. James came to Blackford County in 1840 and bought 160 acres of land, which was in its primitive condition. He went to work and made a clearing, and erected his own log cabin. Game was plenty, and deer and wolves were far more abundant than domestic animals. The wolves often made night hideous with their howlings. Mr. McConkey was married March 28, 1839, in Henry County, to Miss Sarah Ellett, a native of Randolph County, North Carolina, and daughter of Jeremiah and Margaret (Aldred) Ellett. Mrs. McConkey's ancestors were in America long before the Revolutionary times.

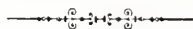
Her parents removed to Henry County, Indiana, in 1834, remaining there four years, then removed to Missouri, where they lived until their death. Mr. and Mrs. McConkey lived on their homestead in Blackford County until August, 1882, when Mr. McConkey bought 153 acres of land in Chester Township, this county, where he has since resided, and has now retired from active labor. Their son Walter manages the farm. They have had eleven children, of whom four are living—Margaret Elizabeth, wife of Ephraim Perry; Amanda, now Mrs. Jackson; Azubah Ellen, wife of John Fritz, of Huntington County, and Walter. The deceased are—Pretty Jane, James Branson, John Franklin, Mary Adaline, Julia Ann, Thomas Jefferson and Sarah Lucretia. Both parents are members of the Christian church. Mr. McConkey has been a life-long Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for James K. Polk. They have lived to see all the great changes in the county. When they first came here they had to go twenty-five miles to get their milling done.



CHARLES H. MORGAN, farmer, section 17, Jackson Township, was born in Wayne County, Indiana, January 9, 1824, a son Micajah and Hannah (Hill) Morgan, who were natives of North Carolina. The father of our subject came with his parents to Indiana when it was a territory, the family settling in the Miami reservation, while yet in the hands of the Indians. Benjamin Morgan, the grandfather of our subject, entered the land which is part of the present site of Richmond. He subsequently sold this land, and with the proceeds bought himself and each of his sons a quarter section of land. He died in Wayne County in the fall of 1859.

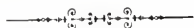
at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. The father of our subject grew to manhood in Wayne County, where he was married to Hannah Hill, and to them were born ten children, seven sons and three daughters. Six of the sons served as soldiers during the war of the Rebellion. The father lived in Wayne County until his death, which occurred in 1862. The mother is still living, making her home in Randolph County, and is now eighty-six years of age. Charles H. Morgan, whose name heads this sketch, enlisted in August, 1861, in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and was in the service of his country until December, 1864. He participated in several engagements during the war, taking part in the siege of Vicksburg, was in Banks' Red River expedition, beside other battles and skirmishes. He was taken prisoner in Mississippi in July, 1862, and was confined at Vicksburg two months, when he was paroled and returned to his regiment. After receiving his discharge he returned to his home in Wells County and resumed farming. He is a thorough, practical farmer, and has one of the finest farms in his neighborhood, containing 150 acres of well improved land, a comfortable residence surrounded with shade and ornamental trees, an orchard containing the best varieties of fruit. He is engaged in general farming, and also devotes some time to stock-raising, making a specialty of mules. Mr. Morgan was united in marriage October 16, 1845, to Miss Mary Worel, a native of North Carolina, born November 16, 1823. They have had born to them seven children, as follows—Abram, Naomi, Sarah, Clarkson T. (deceased), Micajah, Charles M., and Emma (deceased). In April, 1884, Mr. Morgan had his house and contents destroyed by fire, sustaining a loss of about \$400, after which he erected his present substantial residence. Mr. Morgan

is a member of the United Brethren church. In politics he was formerly a Republican, and later affiliated with the Greenback party. He is now liberal in his views, and intends to vote for the man whom he deems best fitted for office.



ROBERT H. THOMPSON, farmer, section 7, Liberty Township, was born in Braeken County, Kentucky, January 10, 1840. His father, John H., is a native of Virginia and a son of Ebenezer Thompson, who came from Scotland. The mother, Mary Thompson, was a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of James Thompson, a native of Virginia. Robert H. was the fifth son and seventh of twelve children. When he was eight months old his parents removed to Indiana, where his father entered 320 acres of land in Huntington County and followed farming until he retired from active business life. The mother died in February, 1880, aged seventy-four years. The father resides in Warren, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. During his youth our subject assisted his father in clearing and improving his farm, and also attended the subscription schools. He remained at home until the breaking out of the civil war, when he enlisted, August 28, 1861, in Company C, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. He went South to Camp Wyckliffe, Kentucky, remaining two months; thence to New Madrid, Missouri; thence to Helena, Arkansas; thence to Riddlesport; thence to Memphis, Tennessee, where he assisted in clearing out the Yazoo Pass. He lost his eye-sight and was confined to the Good Samaritan Eye and Ear Infirmary at St. Louis for ten months. From there he went to Jefferson Barracks, where he was honorably discharged April 4, 1864. He re-

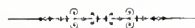
turned home and for three years was unable to attend to any kind of business. He was married February 20, 1867, to Miss Eliza C. Stroup, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Oldaker) Stroup, who came from Highland County, Ohio, and settled in Huntington County, this State, in 1842, where Mrs. Thompson was born. They were of German ancestry. After his marriage Mr. Thompson settled upon his present farm, which was then a dense wilderness, built a cabin, and began to clear and improve his farm. He now has a well improved farm on sections 7 and 18, consisting of 200 acres, besides 120 acres on section 8. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of seven children—Laura G., Ernest E., Alfred P., Annie M., John J., Arman E. and Robert M. Both are members of the Disciple church, and Mr. Thompson is a Republican in politics.



ALVIN JOHN STEWART, civil engineer and architect, residing at Bluffton, was born at Harpersfield, New York, in 1838. When quite young he was taken by his parents to Morris, New York, where he lived till fourteen years of age, receiving his education in the public schools of that place. He then went to Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, and served an apprenticeship of two years at the carpenter's trade. From Sauk Rapids he went, in October, 1854, to St. Louis, Missouri, where, although a mere boy, he was employed by the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad Company as a carpenter and placed in charge of a number of men to superintend the erection of the railroad buildings at Sandoval, the crossing of the main line of the Ohio & Mississippi, and the Illinois Central Railroads, and while in the employ of the same company, he, in

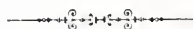
1856, superintended the erection of the first railroad buildings at Odin, the crossing of the Ohio & Mississippi and the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central railroads, which have been in use for over thirty years. From 1857 until 1859 he was in the employ of the E. L. Wince Turn-table Company, putting in turn-tables for the company on railroads in various places in the Western States. In 1859 he was employed by the Texas & New Orleans Railroad Company to superintend the wood work on their road, with headquarters at Beaumont, Texas, where he remained until the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, when he was obliged to make his escape North, and arrived in Chicago in the summer of 1861. At Chicago he was placed in charge of the bridge building and water works of the eastern division of the Michigan Central Railroad, being thus employed until 1870. He was next employed as superintendent of the wood work of the Fort Wayne, Jackson & Saginaw Railroad until 1871, when he was employed in the same capacity on the Fort Wayne, Muncie & Cincinnati Railroad. In 1872 he was promoted to civil engineer by the latter company, and had charge of the roadway department until January 1, 1885, a period of thirteen years, and during this time, from 1876 until 1885, besides being in the employ of the Fort Wayne, Muncie & Cincinnati Railroad Company, he had charge of the roadway department of the White Water branch of the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad. In November, 1871, he became a resident of Bluffton, where he has since resided, and in 1883 he erected one of the most substantial and finest brick residences to be found in the place. Mr. Stewart was united in marriage at Hartwick, New York, in October, 1859, to Emma Mann, a daughter of Oliver and Jane (Kel-

logg) Mann, and of the four children born to this union only one daughter is living—Nettie, who is the wife of Amos G. King, of Bluffton. Those deceased are—Luella, who died at the age of eleven years; Fred., aged nine years, and Jessie, aged five years, all dying of scarlet fever in one week in the year 1871. In 1886, with his son-in-law, A. G. King, Mr. Stewart built the King Creamery at Bluffton, which is considered one of the best in the State of Indiana. Mr. King is a Master Mason, and is a member of Phoenix Lodge, No. 36, of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Mrs. Stewart and her daughter, Mrs. King, are members of the Bluffton Baptist church.



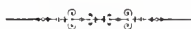
GEORGE UNRUE, an active and enterprising farmer of Jackson Township, residing on section 6, was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, January 4, 1812, a son of George Unrue. His parents were both natives of the State of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Mr. De Poy, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, as was also his eldest son. The parents of our subject were married in Virginia, and in 1814 removed to Ross County, Ohio, and later settled in Montgomery County. They subsequently removed to Darke County, where they passed the remainder of their days. In his religious belief the father was a Presbyterian, and the mother was a member of the Lutheran church. They were the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters. The father being a farmer by occupation, George, the subject of this sketch, was reared to the same avocation, which he has made his life-work. He grew to manhood in Montgomery County, Ohio, where he was married March 28, 1839, to Miss Mary Ubanks, who

was born in Montgomery County, April 4, 1817, a daughter of Hezekiah and Christina (Deerdorf) Ubanks. Her parents were natives of Virginia, and early settlers of Montgomery County, Ohio, where they located prior to the war of 1812. The mother died in Montgomery County, and the father died at the home of one of his sons in Huntington County, Indiana. They were the parents of twelve children. Mr. and Mrs. Unrue had born to them four children—Joseph, John, Henry (deceased), and Anna Catherine. Mr. Unrue was bereaved by the death of his wife February 28, 1879. Mr. Unrue followed farming and brick-making in Montgomery County until the fall of 1852, when he came to Wells County, Indiana, and settled on his present farm in Jackson Township, which he had previously purchased. The surrounding country was in a wild state when he first came to the county, and his farm was then covered with timber. He erected a rude log cabin, in which he lived until he built his fine substantial brick residence, which is a model for comfort and convenience. His farm is now well improved, containing 120 acres of finely cultivated land. In his political views Mr. Unrue is a staunch Democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Andrew Jackson, and his last for Grover Cleveland. He is a member of the Lutheran church.



SAMUEL CRUM, a progressive farmer, residing in Rock Creek Township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Dauphin County, March 22, 1822, his parents, John and Elizabeth (Haynes) Crum, being natives of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. Samuel was reared on the home farm, and received such educational advantages as the rude log cabin subscription schools of that

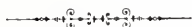
early day afforded. He lived with his parents until nineteen years of age, after which he worked out by the day and month until his marriage. He was married October 25, 1847, to Miss Mary Brahm, who was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, her father, John Brahm, being a native of the same State, and was also of German descent. After his marriage he rented his father-in-law's farm for fourteen years. He was bereaved by the death of his wife in 1851, who left at her death one child, a son, named John H. In February, 1858, Mr. Crum came to Wells County, Indiana, and bought 100 acres of land in Rock Creek Township, which was then only partially improved. He married again in 1863, Miss Elmira Swatz, who was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, coming with her father's family to Wells County in the year 1851. To this union have been born four children—Eli, Emanuel, Aaron (deceased) and David. Mr. Crum began life without capital, and by his own industry and exertions he has accumulated a good property, which he uses in surrounding himself and family with all the necessary comforts of life. In politics Mr. Crum casts his suffrage with the Democratic party. Mrs. Crum is a member of the German Reformed church.



JOSEPH MILHOLLAND, farmer, residing on section 22, Lancaster Township, was born in Butler County, Ohio, September 10, 1840, a son of John and Jane Milholland, both of whom are deceased. Joseph was the second son and fifth child in a family of ten children. When quite young he was brought by his parents to Franklin County, Indiana, and later to Decatur County, where he was reared on a farm. He re-

mained under the home roof until October, 1861, when he volunteered in Company B, Fifty-second Indiana Infantry, his regiment being assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. He received his baptism of fire at the battle of Fort Donelson. His regiment and the Second Iowa, the day before the surrender of the fort, charged the rebel right, meeting with severe losses. After the siege of Corinth the Fifty-second was engaged in repairing the railroad from Corinth to Memphis, and later garrisoned Fort Pillow, Tennessee. After the taking of Vicksburg the regiment was sent there and was under Sherman in the Meridian campaign, during which time Mr. Milholland re-enlisted as a veteran. His regiment, as a part of the Sixteenth Corps, under General A. J. Smith, fought at the victorious battle of Tupelo, Mississippi. After a long and exhaustive campaign the regiment returned to Tennessee, and participated in the battle of Nashville, under General Thomas, where the rebel General Hood's army was destroyed. The last campaign of his regiment was in the Gulf Department, and the last battle in which he participated was at Fort Blakely. He was discharged at Montgomery, Alabama, September 10, 1865, when he returned to Decatur County, and October 5 of the same year was married to Miss Sarah Ann Pierce, a daughter of Renben E. Pierce. She was born in the State of Virginia, but reared from childhood in Decatur County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Milholland are the parents of eight children—Charles Victor, Ida Belle, George Edgar, Willie Andrew, Hattie Eveline, Kendry Allen, Eugene Porter and Alpha Winfield. Mr. Milholland made his home in Decatur County until he came with his family to his present farm in October, 1875. His farm now consists of eighty acres of well-improved land. All the improvements have been made

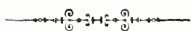
since he settled on the place. At that time only a small clearing had been made and a log cabin built, which his family occupied for a time. The log cabin has since been replaced by a substantial frame residence, and sixty-five acres of his land has been brought under a fine cultivation. In politics Mr. Milholland is an ardent Republican. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. For disability contracted while in the service of his country Mr. Milholland now draws a pension.



REV. DAVID F. THOMAS, of Zanesville, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. In 1847 he started for Indiana with his wife, Anna (Weibel) Thomas, and three children—Samson, Sholter and Lydia. They located on land which he pre-empted, and in May, 1848, entered the same. Not a stick had been felled upon the land; no roads had been cut through the dense woods. He moved the household goods to Miami County, Indiana, by water, thence to Huntington County, and to his land. The first cabin on this tract was built about forty rods west of his present home. A small clearing was made, a small cabin built, and the family moved in January 11, 1848. The cabin had no floor, no door and no windows. Their furniture consisted of the boxes in which their goods were packed. David hewed a frame for his bedstead, and also for his trundle-bed. He was an independent young man, but had neither team nor money to pay for his land. For some time he worked by the day, earning money to keep his family in provisions. His first purchase was of a cow and calf, and another one purchased made his first team. A sled was made, and on it the family had their first ride to a neighbor's.

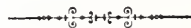
David led the calves, which really made a fine team. There was a mill at Roanoke, but frequently there could be neither flour nor meal obtained. At one time Mr. Thomas paid one dollar to get two bushels of corn ground. There were no bridges over the streams, and David had to swim his horse across Little Run, and carry the corn on his back to keep it from getting wet. The woods were full of game, but Mr. Thomas was not much of a hunter, and never killed but two deer and a few wild turkeys. Their syrup and sugar was made from maple trees. The inhabitants were mostly poor, but they were generous and would go many miles to assist a new-comer raise his cabin, or help to roll logs. Three children were born in the old cabin, and one died within its hallowed walls. Sarah, Mary and John are all deceased; the three oldest are living. Samson married Mrs. Susan (Caley) Core, and resides in Union Township; Lydia is the wife of Rev. S. T. Mahan, pastor of the Summerville circuit United Brethren church, in Union County, Ohio; Sholter is a bachelor, living in Huntington County, where he owns a farm. In 1859 Mr. Thomas received his first license from the quarterly conference of the United Brethren church in Lancaster Township. Two years later he received a license from the annual conference, and was assigned to Bluffton Mission and Mount Pleasant. After that he did miscellaneous work for several years, traveling most of the time and preaching in private houses. The first religious services of the United Brethren church were held in the house of our subject April 8, 1849, Rev. Lewis S. Groves officiating, when the first class was organized. This cabin was a regular preaching point for several years. Later the school-house was used for that purpose, and now they have a substantial frame church building, with

thirty-five members, Rev. D. Abbott, pastor. Mr. Thomas continued in the ministry for more than a quarter of a century. In 1885 he left the pulpit to attend to his farm. The death of his wife occurred October 29, 1873, and October 30, 1884, he married Mrs. Mahala Black, who was born and reared in Mercer County, Ohio. They have no children. The life of Mr. Thomas has been principally devoted to the ministry. He has formed classes and established churches at many points. Mrs. Thomas has two children—Catherine and William.



WARE, one of the leading business men of Rockford, was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, July 18, 1840, a son of James and Harriet (Tarlton) Ware. When he was nine years old his parents removed to Wells County, Indiana, where he grew to manhood, being reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his neighborhood. He resided with his parents until he attained his majority. At the breaking out of the war he was among the first to enlist in defense of his country, enlisting August 8, 1861, in Company C, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. He went into Camp Anderson August 21, where he remained two months, going thence to different places until he reached West Point, on the Ohio River. He then remained on detached duty until his command reached New Madrid, Missouri, where he joined his regiment, and participated in the capture of that place, and also in the battle of Island No. 10, where he had charge of the detail which removed the cannon from the rebels' floating battery. He then went to Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas, then up White River, and from there to Helena, Arkansas, where they

quartered during the winter of 1862. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg, battle of Champion Hills, after which he went to Jackson, Mississippi, thence to New Orleans, and from there to Fort Scott, serving a part of the time on detached duty. He was also in the Red River expedition. He served until the expiration of his term of enlistment and was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 28, 1864. He then returned to his home in Wells County and engaged in farming on the old homestead. He was married September 16, 1868, to Miss Mary J. Scotton, Mrs. Ware being a native of Rock Creek Township, Wells County. Of the six children born to this union five are living—Ada, Harry F., Ollie, Raymond C. and Eldon W. Roland W. died at the age of eighteen months. After his marriage Mr. Ware settled in Rockford, and engaged in the mercantile business. He carries a large stock of general merchandise, and by his reasonable prices and strict attention to the wants of his customers he has built up an extensive trade. Besides his mercantile business he has a tile factory, and a valuable farm of 104 acres of improved land on section 33, Rock Creek Township. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. In 1872 he was appointed postmaster at Barber's Mills, which office he filled acceptably until 1886. He is a comrade of Lew. Dailey Post, No. 33, G. A. R. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.



LOUIS COULSON DAVENPORT, was born at Woodfield, Monroe County, Ohio, March 16, 1852, a son of Samuel and Caroline (Gratigny) Davenport. His grandfather, the Hon. John Davenport, was born in Jefferson County, Virginia, January

9, 1788, and March 31, 1808, married Martha Coulson, of Cecil County, Maryland. They subsequently moved to Woodsfield, Ohio, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. Upon arriving at full age he fell heir to twenty-one slaves, but being opposed to the institution of slavery, he liberated them. He was a prominent Whig and represented his party in the old Seventeenth District of Ohio, in the Seventeenth Congress. His son, Samuel Davenport, was born at Woodsfield, Ohio, June 14, 1828, and graduated from Washington College, Pennsylvania, in 1848. From 1857 to 1860 he was President of the Beaver, Pennsylvania, Female College, and for several years was editor of the Beaver (Pennsylvania) *Argus*. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention that nominated Lincoln and Hamlin. February 27, 1863, he was appointed Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Twenty-fourth District of Pennsylvania, and held the office five years, when, in 1868, he moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and for one year was Professor of Languages in the Fort Wayne Methodist College. He then moved to Bluffton, Indiana, and founded the *Bluffton Chronicle*, which he conducted successfully several years. He was appointed Postmaster at Bluffton by President Grant, in February, 1875, and had charge of the office until his death, which occurred December 18, 1879. He was a fine scholar, possessing a wonderful fund of information, and was a pleasing and forcible writer, and agreeable conversationalist. He was a member of the Method-

ist Episcopal church, to which he was greatly devoted and was an earnest Christian gentleman. He was an ardent supporter of the principles of the Republican party. He was married at Bealsville, Ohio, in May, 1851, to Caroline Gratigny, a daughter of Dr. Louis and Desdemona (Ford) Gratigny. She is a lady of refinement and highly respected by all who know her. She is also an earnest and devoted member of the Methodist church. Her father was born in Bordeaux, France, in 1795, and her mother in Boston, Massachusetts, in September, 1798. Louis C. Davenport, whose name heads this sketch, after completing his education at Beaver, Pennsylvania, learned the drug business at Fort Wayne, and in 1874 came to Bluffton, and opened a drug and notion store, which he has since continued, and is now one of the prominent business men of the place. He is a staunch Republican, and from 1880 to 1882 was chairman of the Republican Central Committee. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, Fort Wayne Commandery, No. 4, and a Thirty-second degree member of the Indiana Consistory, A. & A., Scottish Rite. Mr. Davenport was married June 12, 1878, to Miss Addie Bliss, only daughter of Jeffrey and Lucinda (Angel) Bliss, pioneers of Wells County, and highly esteemed citizens of Bluffton, Mr. Bliss being a well-known and influential business man and the owner of the Bliss House. Mr. and Mrs. Davenport have three children—Mattie, born December 15, 1879; George Bliss, March 12, 1882, and Nellie, May 26, 1885.









